(12) INTERNATIONAL [redacted]LICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT [redacted]PERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/102868 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06T

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US03/16877

(22) International Filing Date: 28 May 2003 (28.05.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/384,047 29 May 2002 (29.05.2002) US

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 03/102868 A2

(54) Title: CLASSIFYING IMAGE AREAS OF A VIDEO SIGNAL

(57) Abstract: A method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of receiving base layer images of standard definition pictures from a base layer decoder; defining image areas of the standard definition pictures; classifying image areas into image types by assigning a class number; and generating enhanced pictures based upon the standard definition pictures and the classification of the image areas. A circuit for enhancing picture quality of a video signal is also disclosed. The circuit comprising a base layer decoder; a classifier coupled to the base layer decoder, the classifier generating a class number for image areas of a standard definition picture; a summing circuit coupled to the classifier; an exchange stream decoder coupled to the summing circuit, the exchange stream decoder generating an index; and a codebook table coupled to the summing circuit. The codebook table preferably stores a plurality of codevectors based upon the class number and the index.

Classifying Image Areas of a Video Signal

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Claim for Priority

Applicants claim priority of invention to US Provisional Application 60/384,047, entitled VIDEO INTERPOLATION CODING, filed on May 29, 2002 by the inventors of the present invention.

Related Applications

This application relates to US Application __/_____, entitled VIDEO INTERPOLATION CODING, US Application __/_____, entitled MAINTAINING A PLURALITY OF CODEBOOKS RELATED TO A VIDEO SIGNAL, and US Application __/_____, entitled PREDICTIVE INTERPOLATION OF A VIDEO SIGNAL, each filed concurrently on May 28, 2003 by the inventors of the present invention.

Pixonics High Definition (PHD) significantly improves perceptual detail of interpolated digital video signals with the aide of a small amount of enhancement side information. In its primary application, PHD renders the appearance of High Definition Television (HDTV) picture quality from a Standard Definition Television (SDTV) coded DVD movie which has been optimized, for example, for a variable bitrate average around 6 mbps (megabits-per-second), while the multiplexed enhancement stream averages approximately 2 mbps.

Background

In 1953, the NTSC broadcast system added a scalable and backwards-compatible color sub-carrier signal to then widely deployed 525-line black-and-white modulation standard. Newer television receivers that implemented NTSC were equipped to decode the color enhancement signal, and then combine it with the older black-and-white component signal in order to create a full color signal for display. At the same time, neither the installed base of older black-and-white televisions, nor the newer black-and-white only televisions designed with foreknowledge of NTSC would need color decoding circuitry, nor would be noticeably affected by the presence of the color sub-carrier in the modulated signal. Other backwards-compatible schemes followed NTSC.

Thirty years later, PAL-Plus (ITU-R BT.1197) added a sub-carrier to the existing PAL format that carries additional vertical definition for letterboxed video signals. Only a few scalable analog video schemes have been deployed, but scalability has been more widely adopted in audio broadcasting. Like FM radio, the North American MTS stereo (BTSC) audio standards for television added a sub-carrier to modulate the stereo difference signal, which when matrix converted back to discrete L+R channels, could be combined in advanced receivers with the mono carrier to provide stereo audio.

In most cases, greater spectral efficiency would have resulted if the encoding and modulation schemes had been replaced with state-of-the-art methods of the time that provided the same features as the scalable schemes. However, each new incompatible approach would have displaced the installed base of receiving equipment, or required spectrum inefficient simulcasting. Only radical changes in technology, such as the transition from analog to digital broadcast television, have prompted simultaneous broadcasting ("simulcasting") of related content, or outright replacement of older equipment.

Prior attempts to divide a compressed video signal into concurrent scalable signals containing a base and at least one enhancement layer have been under development since the 1980's. However, unlike analog, no digital scalable scheme has been deployed in commercial practice, largely due to the difficulties and overheads created by the scalable

digital signals. The key reason perhaps is found is in the very nature in which the respective analog and digital consumer distribution signals are encoded: analog spectra have regular periods of activity (or inactivity) where the signal can be cleanly partitioned, while digital compressed signals have high entropy and irregular time periods that content is modulated.

Analog signals contain high degree of redundancy, owing to their intended memory-less receiver design, and can therefore be efficiently sliced into concurrent streams along arbitrary boundaries within the signal structure. Consumer digital video distribution streams such as DVD, ATSC, DVB, Open Cable, etc., however apply the full toolset of MPEG-2 for the coded video representation, removing most of the accessible redundancy within the signal, thereby creating highly variable, long-term coding dependencies within the coded signal. This leaves fewer cleaner dividing points for scalability.

The sequence structure of different MPEG picture coding types (I, P, B) has a built-in form of temporal scalability, in that the B pictures can be dropped with no consequence to other pictures in the sequence. This is possible due to the rule that no other pictures are dependently coded upon any B picture. However, the instantaneous coded bitrate of pictures varies significantly from one picture to another, so temporal scalable benefits of discrete streams is not provided by a single MPEG bitstream with B-pictures.

The size of each coded picture is usually related to the content, or rate of change of content in the case of temporally predicted areas of the picture. Scalable streams modulated on discrete carriers, for the purposes of improved broadcast transmission robustness, are traditionally designed for constant payload rates, especially when a single large video signal, such as HDTV, occupies the channel. Variable Bit Rate (VBR) streams provide in practice 20% more efficient bit utilization that especially benefits a statistical multiplex of bitstreams.

Although digital coded video for consumer distribution is only a recent development, and the distribution mediums are undergoing rapid evolution, such as higher density disks,

improved modems, etc., scalable schemes may bridge the transition period between formats.

The Digital Versatile Disc (DVD), a.k.a. "Digital *Video* Disc," format is divided into separate physical, file systems, and presentation content specifications. The physical and file formats (Micro-UDF) are common to all applications of DVD (video, audio only, computer file). Video and audio-only have their respective payload specifications that define the different data types that consume the DVD storage volume.

The video application applies MPEG-2 Packetized Elementary Streams (PES) to multiplex at least three compulsory data types. The compulsory stream types required by DVD Video are: MPEG-2 Main Profile @ Main Level (standard definition only) for the compressed video representation; Dolby AC-3 for compressed audio; a graphic overlay (sub-picture) format; and navigation information to support random access and other trick play modes. Optional audio formats include: raw PCM; DTS; and MPEG-1 Layer II. Because elementary streams are encapsulated in packets, and a systems demultiplexer with buffering is well defined, it is possible for arbitrary streams types to be added in the future, without adversely affecting older players. It is the role of the systems demultiplexer to pass only relevant packets to each data type specific decoder.

Future supplementary stream types envisioned include "3D" stereo vision, metadata for advanced navigation, additional surround-sound or multilingual audio channels, interactive data, and additional video streams (for supporting alternate camera angles) that employ more efficient, newer generation video compression tools.

Two major means exist for multiplexing supplementary data, such as enhancement stream information of this invention, in a backwards-compatible manner. These means are not only common to DVD, but many other storage mediums and transmission types including D-VHS, Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS), digital terrestrial television (ATSC & DVB-T), Open Cable, among others. As the first common means, the systems stream layer multiplex described above is the most robust solution since the systems

demultiplexer, which comprises a parser and buffer, is capable of processing streams at highly variable rates without consequence to other stream types multiplexed within the same systems stream. Further, the header of these system packets carry a unique Regiestered ID (RID) that, provided they are properly observed by the common users of the systems language, uniquely identify the stream type so that no other data type could be confused for another, including those types defined in future. SMPTE-RA is such an organization charged with the responsibility of tracking the RID values.

The other, second means to transport supplementary data, such as enhancement data of the invention, is to embed such data within the elementary video stream. The specific such mechanisms available to MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 include user_data(), extension start codes, reserved start codes. Other coding languages also have their own means of embedding such information within the video bitstream. These mechanisms have been traditionally employed to carry low-bandwidth data such as closed captioning and teletext. Embedded extensions provides a simple, automatic means of associating the supplementary data with the intended picture the supplementary data relates to since these embedded transport mechanisms exist within the data structure of the corresponding compressed video frame. Thus, if a segment of enhancement data is found within a particular coded picture, then it is straight-forward for a semantic rule to assume that such data relates to the coded picture with which the data was embedded. Also, there is no recognized registration authority for these embedded extensions, and thus collisions between users of such mechanisms can arise, and second that the supplementary data must be kept to a minimum data rate. ATSC and DVD have made attempts to create unique bit patterns that essentially serve as the headers and identifiers of these extensions, and register the ID's, but it is not always possible to take a DVD bitstream and have it translate directly to an ATSC stream.

Any future data stream or stream type therefore should have a unique stream identifier registered with, for example, SMPTE-RA, ATSC, DVD, DVB, OpenCable, etc. The DVD author may then create a Packetized Elementary Stream with one or more elementary streams of the this type.

Although the sample dimensions of the standard definition format defined by the DVD video specification are limited to 720x480 and 720x576 (NTSC and PAL formats, respectively), the actual content of samples may be significantly less due to a variety of reasons.

The foremost reason is the "Kell Factor," which effectively limits the vertical content to approximately somewhere between 2/3 and ¾ response. Interlaced displays have a perceived vertical rendering limit between 300 and 400 vertical lines out of a total possible 480 lines of content. DVD video titles are targeted primarily towards traditional 480i or 576i displays associated with respective NTSC and PAL receivers, rather than more recent 480p or computer monitors that are inherently progressive (the meaning of "*p*" in 480*p*). A detailed description of the Kell Factor can be found in the books "Television Engineering Handbook" by Wilkonson et al, and "Color Spaces" by Charles Poynton. A vertical reduction of content is also a certain measure to avoid the interlace flicker problem implied by the Kell Factor. Several stages, such as "film-to-tape" transfer, can reduce content detail. Interlace cameras often employ lenses with an intentional vertical low-pass filter.

Other, economical reasons favor moderate content reduction. Pre-processing stages, especially low-pass filtering, prior to the MPEG video encoder can reduce the amount of detail that would need to be prescribed by the video bitstream. Assuming, the vertical content is already filtered for anti-flicker (Kell Factor), filtering along the horizontal direction can further lower the average rate of the coded bitstream by a factor approximately proportional to the strength of the filtering. A 135 minute long movie would have an average bitrate of 4 mbps if it were to consume the full payload of a single-sided, single-layer DVD (volume of 4.7 billion bytes). However, encoding of 720x480 interlace signals have been shown to require sustained bitrates as high as 7 or 8 mbps to achieve transparent or just-noticeable-difference (JND) quality, even with a well-designed encoder. Without pre-filtering, a 4 mbps DVD movie would likely otherwise exhibit significant visible compression artifacts. The measured spectral content of many

DVD tiles is effectively less than 500 horizontal lines wide (out of 720), and thus the total product (assuming 350 vertical lines) is only approximately half of the potential information that can be expressed in a 720x480 sample lattice. It is not surprising then that such content can fit into half the bitrate implied at least superficially by the sample lattice dimensions.

The impact of this softening is minimized by the fact that most 480i television monitors are not capable of rendering details within the Nyquist limits of 720x480. The displays are likely optimized for an effective resolution of 500x350 or worse. Potentially, anti-flicker filters, as commonly found in computer-to-television format converters, could be included in every DVD decoder or player box, thus allowing true 480 "p" content to be encoded on all DVD video discs. Such a useful feature was neither given as a mandate nor suggested as an option in the original DVD video specification. The DVD format was essentially seen as a means to deliver the best standard definition signals of the time to consumers.

Prior art interpolation methods can interpolate a standard definition video signal to, for example, a high definition display, but do not add or restore content beyond the limitations of the standard-definition sampling lattice. Prior art methods include, from simplest to most complex: sample replication ("zero order hold"), bi-linear interpolation, poly-phase filters, spline fitting, POCS (Projection on Convex Sets), and Bayesian estimation. Inter-frame methods such as super-resolution attempt to fuse sub-pixel (or "sub-sample") detail that has been scattered over several pictures by aliasing and other diffusion methods, and can in fact restore definition above the Nyquist limit implied by the standard definition sampling lattice. However such schemes are computationally expensive, non-linear, and do not always yield consistent quality gains frame-to-frame.

The essential advantage of a high-resolution representation is that it is able to convey more of the actual detail of a given content than a low-resolution representation. The motivation of proving more detail to the viewer is that it improves enjoyment of the

content, such as the quality difference experienced by viewers between the VHS and DVD formats.

High Definition Television (HDTV) signal encoding formats are a direct attempt to bring truly improved definition, and detail, inexpensively to consumers. Modern HDTV formats range from 480p up to 1080p. This range implies that content rendered at such resolutions has anywhere from two to six times the definition as the traditional, and usually diluted, standard definition content. The encoded bitrate would also be correspondingly two to six times higher. Such an increased bitrate would not fit onto modern DVD volumes with the modern MPEG-2 video coding language. Modern DVDs already utilize both layers, and have only enough room left over for a few short extras such as documentaries and movie trailers.

Either the compression method or the storage capacity of the disc would have to improve to match as the increase in definition and corresponding bitrate of HDTV. Fortunately both storage and coding gains have been realized. For example, H.264 (a.k.a. MPEG-4 Part 10 "Advanced Video Coder") has provided a nominal 2x gain in coding efficiency over MPEG-2. Meanwhile, blue-laser recording has increased disc storage capacity by at least 3x over the original red-laser DVD physical format. The minimal combined coding and physical storage gain factor of 6:1 means that it is possible to place an entire HDTV movie on a single-sided, single-layer disc, with room to spare.

A high-definition format signal can be expressed independently (simulcast) or dependently (scalable) with respect to a standard-definition signal. The simulcast method codes the standard definition and high definition versions of the content as if they were separate, unrelated streams. Streams that are entirely independent of each other may be multiplexed together, or transmitted or stored on separate mediums, carriers, and other means of delivery. The scalable approach requires the base stream (standard definition) to be first decoded, usually one frame at a time, by the receiver, and then the enhancement stream (which generally contains the difference information between the high definition and standard definition signals) to be decoded and combined with the frame. This may be

done piecewise, as for example, each area of the base picture may be decoded just in time prior to the addition of the enhancement data. Many implementation schedules between the base and enhancement steps are possible.

The simulcast approach is cleaner, and can be more efficient than enhancement coding if the tools and bitrate ratios between the two are not tuned properly. Empirical data suggests that some balance of rates should exist between the base and enhancement layers in order to achieve optimized utilization of bits. Thus if a data rate is required to achieve some picture quality for the base layer established by the installed base of DVD players, for example, then the enhancement layer may require significant more bits in order to achieve a substantial improvement in definition.

In order to lower the bitrate of the enhancement layer, several tricks can be applied that would not noticeably impact quality. For example, the frequency of intra pictures can be decreased, but at the tradeoff of reduced robustness to errors, greater IDCT drift accumulation, and reduced random access frequency.

Previous scalable coding solutions have not been deployed in main-stream consumer delivery mediums, although some forms of scalability have been successfully applied to internet streaming. With the exception of temporal scalability (Fig.2e) that is inherently built-in all MPEG bitstreams that utilize B-frames, the spatial scalable scheme (Fig.2d), SNR scalable (Fig.2c) and Data Partitioning schemes documented in the MPEG-2 standard have all incurred a coding efficiency penalty rendering scalable coding efficiency little better, or even worse, than the total bandwidth consumed by the simulcast approach (Fig. 2b). The reasons behind the penalties have not been adequately documented, but some of the known factors include: excessive block syntax overhead incurred when describing small enhancements, and re-circulation of quantization noise between the base and enhancement layers.

Fig. 2a establishes the basic template where, in subsequent figures, the different scalable coding approaches most fundamentally differ in their structure and partitioning.

Bitstream Processing (BP) **2010** includes those traditional serially dependent operations that have a varying density of data and hence variable complexity per coding unit, such as stream parsing, Variable Length Decoding (VLD), Run-Length Decoding (RLD), header decoding. Inverse Quantization (IQ) is sometimes placed in the BP category if only the non-zero transform coefficients are processed rather applying a matrix operation upon all coefficients. Digital signal processing (DSP) **2020** operations however tend to be parallelizable (e.g. SIMD scalable), and have regular operations and complexity. DSP includes IDCT (Inverse Discrete Cosine Transform) and MCP (Motion Compensated Prediction). Reconstructed blocks **2025** are stored **2030** for later display processing (4:2:0 to 4:2:2 conversion, image scaling, field and frame repeats) **2040**, and to serve as reference for prediction **2031**. From the bitstream **2005**, the BP **2010** produces Intermediate decoded bitstream **2015** comprising arrays of transform coefficients, reconstructed motion vectors, and other directives that when combined and processed through DSP produce the reconstructed signal **2025**.

Fig. 2b demonstrates the "simulcast" case of two independent streams and decoders that optionally, through multiplexer **2136**, feed the second display processor **2140**. The most typical application fitting the Fig. 2b paradigm is a first decoder system for SDTV, and a second decoder system for HDTV. Notably, the second decoder's BP **2110** and DSP **2120** stages do not depend upon state from the first decoder.

The scalable schemes are best distinguished by what processing stages and intermediate data they relate with the base layer. The relation point is primarily application-driven. Fig. 2c illustrates frequency layering, where the relation point occurs at the symbol stages prior to DSP. (symbols are an alternate name for bitstream elements). In block based transform coding paradigms, the symbol stream is predominately in the frequency domain, hence frequency layering. The enhanced intermediate decoded symbols **2215** combined with the intermediate decoded base symbols **2015** creates a third intermediate symbol stream **2217** that is forward-compatible decodable, in this example, by the base layer DSP decoder **2220**. The combined stream appears as an ordinary base layer stream with increased properties (bitrate, frame rate, etc.) over the base stream **2005**.

Alternatively, the enhanced DSP decoder could have tools not present in the base layer decoder DSP, and **2217** depending on the tools combination and performance level, therefore only be backward-compatible (assuming the enhanced DSP is a superset of the base DSP). SNR scalability and Data partitioning are two known cases of *frequency layering* that produce forward-compatible intermediate data streams **2217** decodable by base layer DSP stages **2020**. Frequency layering is generally chosen for robustness over communications mediums.

In a forward-compatible application example of *frequency layering*, detailed frequency coefficients that could be added directly to the DCT coefficient block would be encoded in the enhancement stream, and added **2216** to the coefficients **2015** to produce a higher fidelity reconstructed signal **2225**. The combined stream **2217** resembles a plausible base layer bitstream coded at a higher rate, hence the forward compatible designation. Alternatively, a backward-compatible example would be an enhancement stream that inserted extra chrominance blocks into the bitstream in a format only decodable by the enhanced DSP decoder. The original Progressive JPEG mode and the more recent JPEG-2000 are examples of frequency layering.

Spatial scalability falls into the second major scalable coding category, spatial layering, whose basic decoding architecture as shown in Fig. 2d. The spatial scalability paradigm exploits the base layer spatial-domain reconstruction **2025** as a predictor for the enhanced reconstruction signal **2327**, much like previously reconstructed pictures serve as reference **2031** for future pictures (only the reference pictures are, as an intermediate step, scaled in resolution). A typical application would have the base layer contain a standard definition (SDTV) signal, while the enhancement layer would encode the difference between the scaled high definition (HDTV) and standard definition reconstruction **2025** scaled to match the lattice of **2325.**

Spatial layering is generally chosen for scaled decoder complexity, but also serves to improve robustness over communications mediums when the smaller base layer bitstream is better protected against errors in the communications channel or storage medium.

A third scalability category is temporal layering, where the base layer produces a discrete set of frames, and an enhancement layer adds additional frames that can be multiplexed (in between) the base layer frames. An example application is a base layer bitstream consisting of only I and P pictures could be decoded independently of an enhancement stream containing only B-pictures, while the B-pictures would be dependent upon the base layer reconstruction, as the I and P frame reconstructions would serve as forward and backward MCP (Motion Compensated Prediction) references. Another application is stereo vision, where the base layer provides the left eye frames, and the enhancement layer predicts the right eye frames from the left eye frames, with additional correction (enhancement) to code the left-right difference.

Enhancement methods that do not employ side information or any significant enhancement layer stream are applied by default in the conversion of SDTV to HDTV. Interpolation, through scaling and sharpening, a standard definition (SDTV) signal to a high definition (HDTV) signal is a method to simulate high definition content, necessary to display SDTV on a high definition monitor. Although the result will not look as good as genuine HDTV content, certain scaling or interpolation algorithms do a much better job than others, as some algorithms better model the differences between a HDTV and SDTV representation of the same content. Edges and textures can be carefully sharpened to provide some of the appearance of HDTV, but will at the same time look artificial since the interpolation algorithm will not sufficiently estimate the true HDTV from the content. Plausible detail patterns can be substituted, but may also retain a synthetic look upon close examination.

Many methods falling under the genre of superresolution can partially restore HDTV detail from an SDTV signal under special circumstances, although to do so requires careful and complex motion compensated interpolation since the gain is realized by solving for detail that have been mixed over several pictures through iterative mathematical operations. Superresolution tools require sub-pixel motion compensated precision, similar to that found in newer video coders, and with processing at sub-pixel

granularity rather than whole blocks. Thus, instead of one motion vector for every 8x8 block (every 64 pixels), there would be one to four motion vectors generated by the superresolution restoration algorithm at the receiver for every high-definition pixel. Optimization techniques can reduce this complexity, but the end complexity would nonetheless exceed the combined decoding and post-processing complexity of the most advanced consumer video systems. In an effort to improve stability of the restored image, and reduce implementation costs, several approaches have been investigated by researchers to restore high resolution from a combination of a lower resolution image and side information or explicit knowledge available only to the encoder.

Gersho's 1990 publication "*non-linear VQ interpolation ..*" [Gersho90] first proposes to interpolate lower resolution still images by means of Vector Quantization (VQ) codebooks (**2410** and **2516**) trained on their original higher resolution image counterparts. Prior interpolation methods, such as multi-tap polyphase filter banks, generate the interpolated image sample-by-sample (or point-wise) where data is fitted to a model of the interpolated signal through convolution with curves derived from the model. The model is typically a sinc function. Gersho's interpolation procedure (Fig. 2f) closely resembles block coding, where picture (example shown in Fig. 7e) is divided into a grid of input blocks similar to the grid **7411.** Each block (whose relationship to the grid **7411** is demonstrated by block **7431)** in signal **2506** may be processed independently of other blocks within the same picture. The mapping stage **2504** models some form of distortion such as sub-sampling of the original signal **2502** to the input signal **2506.** It is the goal of the Gersho90 interpolator that the reconstructed block **2518** best approximates the original block **2502** given the information available in the receiver, namely, input block **2506** and previously derived codebooks **2510** and **2516**. Input block **2506** is matched to a best-fit entry within a first codebook **2510**. Fig. 2g adapts the mapping stage **2604** as a combination of decimation followed by the MPEG encode-decode process, the focus of this disclosure's application. Specifically, the mapping stage is the conversion of an HDTV signal to an SDTV signal (via sub-sampling or decimation) that is then MPEG encoded. While the classic VQ picture coder transmits codebook indices to the receiver, in the nonlinear VQ interpolation application (Fig. 2f through 2i), the first index **2512** of

the matching codebook entry in **2510** serves as the index of a corresponding entry in a second codebook **2516**. "Super-resolution" is achieved in that the second codebook contains detail exceeding the detail of the input blocks **2506**. Gersho90 is targeted for the application of image restoration, operating in a receiver that is given the distorted image and codebooks **2510, 2516, 2610,** and **2616** trained on content **2502** available only at the transmitter.

Gersho's non-linear VQ interpolation method is applied for image restoration, and therefore places the codebook search matching and index calculation routine at the receiver. In contrast, the typical applications of VQ are for compression systems whose search routine is at the transmitter where indices and the codebooks are generated and transmitted to the receiver. The receiver then uses the transmitted elements to reconstruct the encoded images. While in the Gersho90 design, the index generator **2008** is the receiver, the codebook generator still resides at the transmitter, where the higher resolution source content **2002** upon which C* **(2016, 2116)** is trained, is available.

The principal step of *Non-linear Interpolative Vector Quantization for Image Restoration* described by [Sheppard97], over the [Gersho90] paper that it builds upon, is the substitution of the first VQ stage **(2508,2608)** with a block waveform coder comprising a Discrete Cosine Transform **2904** and transform coefficient Quantization stage **2908.** The quantized coefficients are packed **2912** to form the index **2914** applied to the second codebook **2716, 2812**. Thus, a frequency domain codebook is created rather than the traditional, spatial domain VQ codebook. The significance of this step is many-fold. First, the codebook search routine is reduced to negligible complexity thanks to the combination of DCT, quantization, and packing stages **(2904, 2908, 2912** respectively) that collectively calculate the second codebook index **2712** *directly* from a combination of quantized DCT coefficients **2906** within the same block **2902.** Prior methods, such as Gersho90, generated the index through a comprehensive spatial domain match tests (similar to the process in **5400)** of many codebook entries (similar to **5140)** to find the best match, where the index **2712** of the best match serves as the index sought by the search routine.

Sheppard further overlaps each input block by a pre-determined number of samples. Thus, a window of samples is formed around the projected area to be interpolated, and the input window steps through the picture at a number of samples smaller than the dimensions of the input block. Alternatively, in a non-overlapping arrangement, the projected and input block dimensions and step increments would be identical. An overlapping arrangement induces a smoothing constraint, resulting in a more accurate mapping of input samples to their output interpolated counterparts. This leads to fewer discontinuities and other artifacts in the resulting interpolated image. However, the greater the overlap, the more processing work must be done in order to scale an image of a given size. For example, in a combination of a 4x4 process block overlapping a 2x2 input block, sixteen samples are processed for every four samples that are interpolated. This is a 4:1 ratio of process bandwidth to input work. In a non-overlapping arrangement, sixteen samples (in a 4x4 block) are produced for every sixteen input samples. The overlapping example given here requires four times as much work per average output sample as the non-overlapping case.

Although the DCT method by Sheppard et al does permit larger codebooks than the NLIVQ methods of Gersho et al, it does not address the cost and design of sending such codebooks to a receiver over a communications or storage medium. The application is a "closed circuit" system, with virtually unlimited resources, for restoring images of similar resolution. Thus, an improved system that is designed specifically targeted for entropy-constrained, real-time transmission and can scale across image resolutions is needed.

DVD

DVD is the first inexpensive medium to deliver to main stream consumers nearly the full quality potential of SDTV. Although a rigid definition of SDTV quality does not exist, the modern definition has settled on "D-1" video -- the first recording format to adopt CCIR 601 parameters. SDTV quality has evolved significantly since the first widespread introduction of television in the 1940's, spawning many shades of quality that co-exist today.

In the late 1970's, the first popular consumer distribution format, VHS and Betamax tape, established the most common denominator for standard definition with approximately 250 horizontal luminance lines and a signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) in the lower to mid 40's dB range. Early television broadcasts had similar definition. In the 1980's, television monitors, analog laserdiscs, Super-VHS and the S-Video connector offered consumers improved SD video signals with up to 425 horizontal lines and SNR as high as 50 dB, exceeding the 330 horizontal-line-per-picture-height limit of the broadcast NTSC signal format today.

Starting in 1982, professional video engineering organizations collaborated on the creation of the CCIR 601 discrete signal representation standard for the exchange of digital signals between studio equipment. Although it is only one set of parameters among many possible choices, CCIR 601 effectively established the upper limit for standard definition at 540 horizontal lines per picture height (on a 4:3 aspect ratio monitor). Applications such as DVD later diluted the same pixel grid to cover a one third wider screen area. Thus the horizontal density on 16:9 anamorphic DVD titles is one third less than standard 4:3 "pan & scan" titles. The CCIR 601 rectangular grid sample lattice was defined as 720 samples per line, with approximately 480 lines per frame at the 30 Hz frame rate most associated with NTSC, and 576 lines at the 25 Hz frame rate of PAL and SECAM. Horizontal line density is calculated as (aspect ratio) * (total lines per picture width). For a 4:3 aspect ratio, the yield is therefore ((4/3)*(720)) = 540 lines.

Although technically a signal format, CCIR 601 cultivated its own connotation as the ultimate watermark of "studio quality." By the late 1990's, CCIR 601 parameters were ushered to consumers by the ubiquitous MPEG-2 video standard operating mode, specifically designated "Main Profile @ Main Level or "MP@ML". MPEG-2 MP@ML was adopted as the exclusive operating point by products such as DVD, DBS satellite, and digital cable TV. While the sample dimensions of DVD may be fixed to 720x480 ("NTSC") and 720x576 ("PAL"), the familiar variables such as bitrate (bandwidth),

content, and encoder quality very much remain dynamic, and up to the discretion of the content author.

Concurrent to the end of the SDTV evolution, HDTV started from almost its beginning as a handful of digital formats. SMPTE 274M has become HDTV's ubiquitous analogy for to SDTV's CCIR 601. With 1920 samples-per-line by 1080 lines per frame, and a 16:9 aspect aspect ratio -- one third wider than the 4:3 ratio of SDTV -- SMPTE 274M meets the canonical requirement that HD be capable of rendering twice the horizontal and vertical detail of SDTV. The second HDTV format, SMPTE 296M, has image dimensions of 1280x720 samples.

Until all programming is delivered in an HDTV format, there will be a need to convert SDTV signals to fit on HDTV displays. SDTV legacy content may also circulate indefinitely. In order to be displayed on a traditional HDTV display, SDTV signals from sources such as broadcast, VHS, laserdisc, and DVD need to first be up-converted to HDTV. Classic picture scaling interpolation methods, such as many-tap FIR poly-phase filters, have been regarded as the state of the art in practical interpolation methods. However, the interpolated SD signal will still be limited to the detail prescribed in the original SD signal, regardless of the sample density or number of lines of the HD display. Interpolated SD images will often appear blurry compared to their true HD counterparts, and if the interpolated SD images are sharpened, they may simulate some aspect of HD at the risk looking too synthetic.

One reason for SD content looking better on HD displays comes from the fact that most display devices are incapable of rendering the full detail potential of the signal format they operate upon as input. The HD display has the advantage that details within the SD image that were too fine or subtle to be sufficiently resolved by a SD display can become much more visible when scaled up on the HD display. Early on, however, the interpolation processing and HD display will reach a point of diminishing returns with the quality and detail that can be rendered from an SD signal. In the end, information must be added to the SD signal in order to render true detail beyond the native limits of

the SD format. Several enhancement schemes, such as the Spatial Scalable coders of MPEG-2, have been attempted to meet this goal, but none have been deployed in commercial practice due to serious shortcomings.

Enhancement methods are sensitive to the quality of the base layer signal that they build upon. To optimize the end quality, a balance in bitrate and quality must be struck between the base layer and enhancement layer reconstructions. The enhancement layer should not always spend bits correcting deficiencies of the base layer, while at the same time the base layer should not stray too close to its own point of diminishing returns.

Summary

Fig. 1a shows the conceptual performance of the invention when used as an enhancement coder in conjunction with an MPEG-2 base layer. The perceived quality level Q_2 achieved with the PHD/MPEG-2 combination at rate R_2 is greater than the quality that would be reached using only MPEG-2 at the same rate R_2. In this figure, MPEG expresses quality up to a natural stopping point, where PHD picks up and carries it further at a faster rate (denoted with a higher Q/R slope). The figure expresses that there is a natural dividing point between MPEG-2 and PHD that leads to an overall optimal quality.

While DVD video may be the first popular consumer format to reach the limits of standard definition, artifacts may still be occasionally visible, even on the best coded discs. Those skilled in the art of video coding are familiar with empirical measures that an MPEG-2 video bitstream can sustain up to 10 million bits per second at transparent quality levels when approximating a CCIR 601 rate standard definition video signal containing complex scenes. Sophisticated pre-processing steps can be carefully applied to reduce the content of the signal in areas or time periods that will not be very well perceived, and therefore reduce coded bitrate for those areas, and/or remove data patterns that would not map to a concise description with the MPEG-2 video coding language. Removal of noise, temporal jitter, and film grain can also help reduce bitrate. Human-assisted coding of difficult scenes is used to make decisions on areas or periods that fail

encoder analysis. However, even with these and other optimization steps, the average bitrate will, for film content coded at the quality limits of SDTV, be on the order of 6 to 7 mbps. The reference DVD system, defined by the DVD Forum members and documented in the DVD specification, requires that the DVD player transport and multiplexing mechanism shall indefinitely sustain video rates as high as 9.5 mbps.

Therefore to bridge the transition between the modern DVD standard definition format, and any new high definition format that employs a combination of new coding methods and new storage mediums (which are not backwards compatible with older means), an improved method of enhancement coding is needed.

The interpolation error signal is the difference between the interpolated signal and the original signal that the interpolation is attempting to estimate or predict. The interpolation error typically has high concentration of energy along edges of objects, since the edges are most difficult to model accurately with prediction. PHD includes tools for the efficient coding of the most perceptible detail within the interpolation error signal that represents information lost, for example, during the filtering conversion from the original HD signal to the base layer signal.

PHD efficiently exploits the base layer video information already available to the receiver, thereby minimizing the amount of enhancement information to be sent. Two principal tools are employed to this end: the classifier, and the predictive interpolator. In a specific instance of the preferred embodiment, classification is applied to the base layer to select sub-tables of a codebook that contains a collection of additive detail block patterns activated by the coded enhancement stream. The overall algorithm is conceptualized in Fig. 1b through the illustration of data at various stages of transformation as data passes through the PHD decoder.

The preferred instance of the toolset resembles a block-based video coding language. Difference blocks are first sent within the enhancement bitstream to improve or correct the accuracy of the predicted image. Then, individual blocks are applied to interpolated

areas. Small block sizes, such as the preferred embodiment's 4x4 base layer classification block size, offer a reasonable tradeoff between bitrate, implementation complexity, and approximation of picture features and contours. Each 4x4 area in the base layer image has a corresponding 8x8 area in the interpolated image.

The PHD decoder analyzes the base layer data, through for example the preferred classification methods, and adds enhancement data to the interpolated signal. Many stages of the enhancement process are also guided by analysis conducted on the base layer reconstruction. For example, flat background areas that are determined unworthy of enhancement by the base layer analyzer do not incur the overhead of signaling in the enhancement stream of how those areas should be treated.

To demonstrate the power of the classification tool, Fig. 1c shows a small codebook **1210** of image patterns before and after partitioning by classification. Codevectors are sorted by their base patterns in the left column **1210**, and then are grouped into the right boxes (**1220, 1222, 1224, 1226**) according to the base pattern common to each cluster of codevectors. The simplified example has four codevectors per each of the four classes. After clustering, the address space **1212** is effectively cut in half, resulting in a 2-bit index **1221** – half the size of the original 4-bit index **1212** (shown along the left column) needed to uniquely address each codevector. The first two prefix bits of the original 4-bit index are effectively derived from the base layer analyzer.

To demonstrate the application of the classifier, Fig. 1d shows the set of classes for a simple picture with one foreground object (tree) and several background areas (sky, mountains, and grass). Each block is assigned a class number in Fig. 1d, and a separate sub-table codevector index in Fig. 1e. The object outlines in Fig.1e illustrate the high pass signal of the solid objects in Fig. 1d. The high pass, or "difference" signal, is effectively coded with the blocks in the codebook table.

Any distinct pattern or set of attributes that can be derived from the base layer, through a combination of operations and analytical stages, and has commonality among a sufficient

number of codevectors, can serve as a class. The larger the number of codevectors that share common attributes (such as the example base patterns in Fig.1c), the greater the reduction of the global address space of the codebook and hence smaller the codevector indices that need to be transmitted to the PHD decoder. In other words, the amount of information that nominally need be sent can first be reduced by partially deriving whatever information possible in the receiver.

Classification also forces unimportant codevectors that do not strongly fall into any class to merge with like codevectors.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1a is a block diagram showing the performance of the invention.

Fig. 1b is a block diagram showing the transformation of data as it passes through a decoder according to the present invention.

Fig. 1c shows a codebook of image patterns before and after partitioning by classification.

Fig. 1d shows a set of classes for one picture according to the present invention.

Fig. 1e shows a sub-table codevector index according to the present invention.

Fig. 2a shows a block diagram of single non-scalable stream according to the present invention.

Fig. 2b shows a block diagram of two independent streams according to the present invention.

Fig. 2c is a block diagram showing frequency layer according to the present invention.

Fig. 2d is a block diagram showing special scalability according to the present invention.

Fig. 2e a block diagram showing temporal scalability according to the present invention.

Fig. 2f is a block diagram showing a Gersho interpolation procedure.

Fig. 2g is a block diagram showing a mapping stage having a combination of decimation followed by an MPEG encode/decode process according to the present invention.

Fig. 2h is a block diagram showing non-linear interpolation vector quantization according to the present invention.

Fig. 2i is a block diagram showing non-linear interpolation vector quantization of MPEG encoded video.

Fig. 2j is a block diagram showing index generation steps.

Fig. 3b is a block diagram showing the fundamental stages of a classifier according to the present invention.

Fig. 3d is a block diagram showing the fundamental stages of a classifier according to an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3e shows a set of coefficients according to the present invention.

Fig. 3f is a flow chart showing the classification process according to the present invention.

Fig. 3g is a flow chart showing the state realization of a decision tree.

Fig. 3h is a block diagram of a state machine according to the present invention.

Fig. 4a is a block diagram showing a conventional spatial scalable enhancement architecture.

Fig. 4b is a block diagram showing stages of video coding according to the present invention.

Fig. 4c is a conventional decoder.

Fig. 4d is another conventional decoder.

Fig. 4e is another conventional decoder.

Fig. 1e is another conventional decoder.

Fig. 4f is another decoder.

Fig. 5a is a block diagram of a real-time process stage of an enhancement process according to the present invention.

Fig. 5b is a block diagram showing databases maintained by an encoder according to the present invention.

Fig. 5c is a block diagram showing look ahead stages of an enhancement encoder according to the present invention.

Fig. 5d is a block diagram showing a pre-classification stage according to the present invention.

Fig. 5e is a block diagram showing a circuit for authorizing figures according to the present invention.

Fig. 5h is a block diagram showing conventional DVD authorizing.

Fig. 5i is a block diagram showing storage prior to multiplexing a disc record.

Fig. 5j is a block diagram showing an alternate embodiment of generating an enhancement stream according to the present invention.

Fig. 6a is a block diagram showing stages within the prediction function according to the present invention.

Fig. 6b is a block diagram showing the generation of an enhanced picture.

Fig. 6c is a functional block diagram of a circuit for generating enhanced pictures according to the present invention.

Fig. 6d is a block diagram of a circuit for generating enhanced pictures according to the present invention.

Fig. 7 shows syntax and semantic definitions of data elements according to the present invention.

Fig. 7a is a strip diagram according to the present invention.

Fig. 7b is a flow chart showing a procedure for passing a strip.

Fig. 7c is a flow diagram showing a block.

Fig. 7d is a block diagram showing codebook processing.

Fig. 7e is a diagram showing block delineation within a picture.

Fig. 7f is a diagram showing codebook selection by content region.

Fig. 7g is a diagram showing strip delineation according to region.

Fig. 7h is a video sequence comprising a group of dependently coded pictures.

Fig. 8a shows a conventional packetized elementary stream.

Fig. 8b shows a private stream type within a multiplex.

Fig. 8c shows conventional scenes and groups of pictures.

Fig. 8d shows a conventional relationship coded frame and display frame times.

Fig. 8e shows codebook application periods.

Overview of tools

The PHD decoding process depicted in Fig. 4b has two fundamental stages of modern video coding. A first prediction phase **4130,1130** forms a first best estimate **4132,1135** of the target picture **4152,1175,** using only the output state **4115,1115** of a base layer decoder **4110,1110** (and some minimal directives **4122**), followed by a prediction error phase comprising classification **4140,1120,** enhancement decode **4120,1150** and application **4150** of correction **1165** terms that improve the estimate.

The overall PHD enhancement scheme fits within the template of the classic spatial scalable enhancement architecture (Fig.4a). The respective base layer decoders **4020,4110** are principally the same. Both fundamental enhancement phases may operate concurrently in the receiver, and their respective output **4126,4032** added together at a

later, third phase **4150**, where the combined signal **4152** is sent to display, and optionally stored **4160** for future reference **4172** in a frame buffer **4172**. In a simplified embodiment the enhanced reconstruction **4152** may be sent directly to display **4162** to minimize memory storage and latency.

As part of the estimation phase **4130**, the decoded base layer picture **4115** is first interpolated according to parameters **4122** to match the resolution of the reconstructed HD image **4152**. The interpolated image is a good first estimate of the target frame **4152**. Traditional interpolation filters are applied in the preferred embodiment during the interpolation process.

A first stage of the prediction error is to extract 4x4 blocks **1115** from the decoded base layer picture (**4115**) for classification analysis **4140**. In order to keep computational complexity to a minimum, the preferred embodiment does not classify the interpolated base layer picture **4132**, since the interpolated image nominally has four times the number pixels as the base layer image **4115**. The interpolated image **4132** is simply an enlarged version of the base layer image **4115**, and inherently contains no additional information over the non-interpolated base layer image **4115**.

The preferred embodiment employs vector quantization to generate correction terms, in the form of 8x8 blocks **4126**. Each block, or codevector, within the codebook represents a small difference area between the interpolated predicted base image **4132** and the desired image **4152**. The codebook comprising VQ difference blocks are stored in a look up table (LUT) **1160**. The difference blocks are ideally re-used many times during the lifetime of the codebook.

Encoder

Figure 5c denotes the time order of the multi-pass base **5220** and enhancement layer (**5230, 5240**) video encoding processes. Nominally, the base layer signal **5022** is first generated for at least the period that corresponds to the enhancement signal period coded

in **5230**. Alternative embodiments may jointly encode the base and enhancement layers, thus different orders, including concurrent order, between **5210** and **5230** are possible. The overall enhancement process has two stages: look-ahead **5230** (Fig. 5d) and real-time processes **5240** (exploded in Fig. 5a). The enhancement look-ahead period is nominally one scene, or access unit interval for which the codebook is generated and aligned. The iteration period may be one scene, GOP, access unit, approximate time interval such as five minutes, or entire program such as the full length of a movie. Only during the final iteration are the video bitstreams (**5022**, **5252**) actually generated, multiplexed into the program stream **5262**, and recorded onto DVD medium **5790**. For similar optimization reasons, the final enhancement signal **5252** may also undergo several iterations. The multi-pass base layer encoding iterations offer an opportunity in which the PHD look-ahead process can operate without adding further delays or encoding passes over the existing passes of prior art DVD authoring.

Fig. 5b lists the databases maintained by the encoder **5110** look-ahead stages of Fig. 5c. The enhancement codebook **5342** (database **5140**) is constructed by **5340** (described later) from training on blocks extracted from difference signal **5037** (database **5130**). The codebook is later emitted **5232,** packed **5250** with other enhancement sub-streams (5234, 5252) and data elements and finally multiplexed **5260** into the program stream **5262**. In the preferred embodiment, the difference signal **5037** is generated just-in-time, on a block basis, from delayed pre-processed signal **5010** stored in buffer **5013** (database **5160**). Likewise, the base layer signal **5032** (database **5120**) is generated just in time from decoded SD frames (database **5150**). Alternative embodiments may generate any combination of the signals that contribute to the enhancement stream encoding process, either in advance (delayed until needed by buffers), or just-in-time.

The first two pre-classification stages **5310, 5320**, described later in this document, produce two side information arrays (or enhancement streams) **5325** and **5315** (database **5180**) that are later multiplexed, along with the codebook, into the packed enhancement stream **5252**. The results of the third pre-classification stage **5332** of Fig. 5d may be

temporarily maintained in encoder system memory, but are used only for codebook training.

Although original HD frames (signal **5007**) are in the preferred embodiment are passed only to the pre-processor **5010,** further embodiments may keep the frames (database 5170) for multi-pass analysis in the classification or codebook training phases.

Run-time operations **5240,** whose stages are detailed in Fig. 5a, can be generally categorized as those enhancement stages that produce packed bitstream elements for each coded enhancement picture. The enhancement data may be buffered **5820** or generated as the final DVD program stream is written to storage medium **5790** master file. Buffering **5820** allows the enhancement stream to have variable delays to prevent overflow in the system stream multiplexer **5260**. Enhancement may be generated in step with the base layer **5020** encoder at granularities of a blocks, macroblocks, macroblock rows and slices, pictures, group of pictures, sequences, scenes or access units. An alternate embodiment (Fig. 5j) is to generate the enhancement stream **5252** after the base layer signal **5022** has been created for the entire program, as would be the case if the enhancement is added to a pre-existing DVD title.

A second alternate embodiment is to generate the base and enhancement layers jointly. A multi-pass DVD authoring strategy would entail several iterations of each enhancement look-ahead process, while the joint base and enhancement rate controllers attempt to optimize base and enhancement layer quality.

For best coding efficiency, the applied codebook and enhancement stream are generated after the scene, GOP (Group of Pictures), or other interval of access unit has been encoded for the base layer. The delay between base layer and enhancement layer steps is realized by buffers **5013** and **5023**.

The pre-processor **5010** first filters the original high-definition signal **5007** to eliminate information which exceeds the desired rendering limit of the PHD enhancement process,

or patterns which are difficult to represent with PHD. The outcome **5012** of the pre-processor represents the desirable quality target of the end PHD process. Film grain and other artifacts of the HD source signal **5007** are removed at this stage.

The SD source signal **5017** is derived from the pre-processed HD signal **5012** by a format conversion stage **5015** comprising low-pass filters and decimators. The SD signal **5017** serves as source input for MPEG-2 encoding **5020**.

MPEG-2 encoder **5020** produces bitstream **5022,** that after delay **5023**, is multiplexed as a separate elementary stream **5024** in the program stream multiplexer **5280**.

The SD signal **5027** reconstructed by MPEG-2 decoder **5025** from delayed encoded SD bitstream **5024** is interpolated **5030** to serve as the prediction for the target HD signal **5014**.

The prediction engine **5030** may also employ previously enhanced frames **5072** to form a better estimate **5032**, but nominally scales each picture from SD to HD dimensions.

The difference signal **5037** derived from the subtraction **5035** of the predicted signal **5032** from the HD target signal **5014** serves as both a training signal and enhancement source signal for the PHD encoding process **5050**. Both source signals require the corresponding signal components generation within the PHD encode process **5050** and enhancement coding

The classifier **5040** analyzes the decoded SD signal **5027** to select a class **5047** for each signal portion, or block, to be enhanced by the PHD encoding process **5050**. The encoded enhancement signal **5052** is decoded by the PHD decoder **5060**, which in the encoder system can be realized as a look up table alone (**5061**) since the indices exist in pre-VLC (Variable Length Coding) encoded form within the encoder. The decoded enhancement signal **5062** is added by **5065** to the predicted HD signal **5032** to produce

the reconstructed HD signal **5067**. The goal of the PHD encoder is to achieve a reconstruction **5067** that is close to the quality of the target HD signal **5014**.

The reconstructed HD signal **5067** may be stored and delayed in a frame buffer **5070** to assist the interpolation stage **5030**.

The encoded PHD enhancement signal **5052** is multiplexed **5260** within the DVD program stream as an elementary stream with the base layer video elementary stream **5024**.

Some stages of the run-time operations are common to both the encoder and decoder. The encoder explicitly models decoder behavior when a decoded signal is recycled to serve as a basis for prediction **5072** in future signals, or when the decoder performs some estimation work **5040** of its own. For similar reasons, the MPEG-2 encoder **5020** models the behavior of the MPEG-2 decoder **5025.**

Pre-processor (5010)

The primary responsibility of the pre-processor **5010** is to perform format conversion that maps the master source signal **5007** to the sample lattice of the HD target signal **5014**. The most common source format for HD authoring is SMPTE 274M, with 1920 luminance samples per line, and 1080 active lines per frame. In order to maintain a simple 2:1 relationship between the base and enhancement layers, and to set a realistic enhancement target, the preferred enhancement HD coding lattice is twice the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the coded base layer lattice. For "NTSC" DVD's, this is 1440x960 and 1408x960 for respective 720x480 and 704x480 base layer dimensions. For "PAL" DVD's with 576 active vertical lines, the enhancement dimensions are 1440x1152 and 1408x1152 respectively. The base layer will assumed to be 720x480 for purposes of this description, although the enhancement process is applicable to any base and enhancement dimension, and ratio.

A skilled engineer can chose from many image scaling designs, including well known poly-phase FIR filters, to convert the first 1920x1080 frame lattice of **5012** to the second 1440x960 lattice of **5017**. Another possible formats for either or both of the input **5012** and output **5017** sides is SMPTE 296M, with 1280x960 image dimensions. A corresponding format conversion stage **1482** in the decoder maps the PHD coded dimensions to the separate requirements of the display device connected to display signal **1482.** Common display formats include SMPTE 274M (1920x1080x30i) and SMPTE 296M (1280x720x60p).

General format conversion pre-processing essentially places the target signal in the proper framework for enhancement coding. The goal of pre-processing is to produce a signal that can be efficiently represented by the enhancement coding process, and assists the enhancement coder to distribute bits on more visibly important areas of the picture. Several filters are employed for the multiple goals of pre-processing.

A band-pass filter eliminates spatial frequencies exceeding a user or automatically derived target content detail level. The band-pass filter can be integrated with the format conversion scaling filters. The format scaling algorithm reduces the 1920x1080 HD master format to the 1440x960 coding format, but additional band-pass filtering smoothes the content detail to effectively lower resolutions, for example, 1000x700.

Adaptive filtering eliminates patterns that are visually insignificant, yet would incur a bit cost in latter encoding stages if left unmodified by the pre-processor. Patterns include film grain ; film specs such as dirt, hair, lint, dust ;

A classic pattern and most common impediment to efficient coding is signal noise. Removal of noise will generally produce a cleaner picture, with a lower coded bit rate. For the PHD enhancement process, noise removal will reduce instances of codebook vectors that would otherwise be wasted on signal components chiefly differentiated by noise. Typical noise filters include 2D median, and temporal motion compensated IIR and FIR filters.

Downsample (5015)

The base layer bitstream complies with MPEG-2 Main Profile @ Main Level video sequence size parameters fixed by the DVD specification. Although MPEG-2 Main Profile @ Main Level can prescribe an unlimited number of image size combinations, the DVD specification limits the MPEG-2 coding parameters to four sizes (720x480, 704x480, 720x576, and 704x576), among which the DVD author can select..The DVD MPEG-1 formats (352x240 and 352x288) are not described here, but are applicable to the invention. The HD target sample lattice **5012** is decimated **5015** to the operational lattice **5017** of the MPEG-2 **5020.** Downsampling **5015** may be bypassed if the encoder **5020** is able to operate directly upon HD formats, for example, and is able to perform any necessary conversion to the DVD base layer video format. In prior art, downsampling **5015** will execute master format conversion, such 24p HD (SMPTE RP 211-2000) to the SD format encoded by **5020**.

Downsampling may be performed with a number of decimation algorithms. A multi-tap polyphase FIR filter is a choice.

MPEG-2 encoder (5020)

The MPEG-2 encoder **5020** nominally performs as prior art encoders for DVD authoring. Although the invention can work with no changes to the base layer encoder **5020,** improvements to the overall reconstructed enhancement layer video can be realized through some modification of the base layer encoding process. In general, any operation in the base layer that can be manipulated to improve quality or efficiency in the enhancement layer is susceptible to coordination with the enhancement process. In particular, operation of the DCT coefficient quantizer mechanisms *quant_code* and *quantization_weighting_matrix* .can be controlled to maintain consistent enhanced picture quality. In some combinations of base and enhancement data, this would be more efficient than applying additional bits to the corresponding area in the enhancement layer.

In an advanced design, the rate control stage of the encoder **5020** could have dual base and enhancement layer rate-distortion optimization.

Improved motion vectors coding in the base layer may benefit modes of the enhanced prediction stage **5030** that employ motion vectors extracted from the base layer signal **5022** to produce interpolated predicted frames (a feature of an alternate embodiment described later in this specification). Motion vector construction is directly operated by rate-distortion optimization with feedback from both the base and enhancement reconstruction.

The encoder may also need to throttle back the bitrate to ensure the combination of enhance and base bitstreams do not exceed DVD buffer capacity.

Prediction (5030)

The prediction scheme forms a best estimate of the target signal by maximizing use of previously decoded data, and thereby minimizing the amount of information needed for signaling prediction error. For the application of picture resolution and detail enhancement, a good predictor is the set of image interpolation algorithms used in scaling pictures from one resolution, such as an intermediate or coded format, to a higher resolution display format. These scaling algorithms are designed to provide a plausible approximation of signal content sampled at higher resolution given the limited information available in the source lower resolution picture.

Overall, the base layer decoded image **6110** extracted from signal **5027** is scaled by a ratio of 2:1 from input dimensions 720x480 to an output dimension of 1440x960 of the signal **5032** to match the lattice of the target **5014** and enhanced images **5067** so that the predicted signal **5032** image **6120** may be directly subtracted **5035** from the target signal **5014**, and directly added **5065, 6130** to the enhancement difference signal **5062** image **6140** to produce the enhanced picture **6150**. Other ratios and image sizes are applicable.

In some picture areas or blocks, the predicted signal **5032** is sufficient in quality to the target signal **5014** that no additional information **5052** need be coded.

The order of the stages within the prediction **5030** function of the preferred embodiment is depicted in Fig. 6a. Other orders are possible, but the preferred order is chosen as a balance between implementation complexity and performance, and for dependencies with the base layer bitstream such as the de-blocking stage's use of quantizer step sizes.. Starting with the base frame **6010, 6110** extracted from signal **5027**, a de-blocking filter **6020** is applied to reduce coding artifacts present in the base layer. Although good coding generally yields few artifacts, they may become more visible or amplified as a result of the scaling process **6030**, or plainly more visible on a higher definition screen. De-blocking reduces unwanted patterns sometimes unavoidably introduced by the MPEG-2 base layer encoding process **5020**.

The de-blocking filter of ITU-T H.263 Annex J is adapted to **6020**. Some stages of the Annex J filter require modifications in order to fit the invention. For example, the de-blocking filter is performed as a post-processing stage after the image has been decoded, not as part of the motion compensated reconstruction loop of the base layer decoder. The quantization step function is remapped from the H.263 to the steps of the MPEG-2 quantizer. The strength of the de-blocking filter is further regulated by a global control parameter transmitted with each enhanced PHD picture. The PHD encoder sets the global parameter to weight the Annex J STRENGTH constant according to analysis of the decoded picture quality. Since the quantizer scale factor is not always an indication of picture quality or coding artifacts, the PHD encoder aims to use the global parameter to set the STRENGTH value to minimal for pictures with excellent quality, thus de-blocking is effectively turned off when it is not needed or would do unnecessary alterations to the picture.

A poly-phase cubic interpolation filter **6030** derives a 1440x960 image **6035** from the de-blocked standard definition 720x480 image **6025**.

Post-filtering **6040** optionally performs de-blocking on the scaled image **6035** rather than the base layer image **6015**.

In an alternative embodiment (Fig. 6c functional blocks and Fig. 6d data blocks), a subset of pictures within a sequence or GOP are alternatively predicted from a combination of previously decoded base layer and enhanced pictures **6320,6322** stored in frame buffer **6225** – a subset of frame buffer **5070**. This variation of a predicted enhancement picture is henceforth referred to as a temporally predicted enhancement picture (TPEP) **6345.** TPEP resembles the B-frame or "bi-directionally" predicted frames since they borrow information from previously decoded frames that in display order are both future and past. The difference enhancement **6320, 6322** from previously decoded pictures is re-applied to the current picture **6315** as a good estimate of the enhancement difference **6140** that would be otherwise transmitted as enhancement data in non-TPEP pictures. TPEP is a tool for reducing the overall or average bitrate of the enhancement layer since data is not often coded for TPEP blocks. If difference mode is enabled in the header of TPEP pictures, a 1-bit flag prefixes each TPEP block indicating whether difference information will be transmitted for the block. TPEP pictures are enabled when the corresponding base layer picture is a B picture; the scaled motion information **6235** from the base layer picture instructs the MCP **6235** to create the prediction surface **6325** that is combined **6340** with the interpolated base frame **6315**.

Classification

While Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) images captured of the same scene differ superficially by the density and size of their respective sample lattices (1440x960 vs. 720x480), they may substantively differ in content, in particular when analyzed in the frequency domain. Generally, a hierarchical relationship should exist in that the information in the SD image is a subset of the HD image, such that the SD image may be derived from the HD image through operations such as filtering and sub-sampling. (Eq.1)

SD = sub-sample(HD) (Eq. 1)

In the spatial domain, an HD image can be represented as the sum of a first base image (B) and a second difference (D) image:

B = sub-sample(HD)

D = HD − B (Eq. 2)

HD′ = B′ + D (Eq. 3)

In this example, the difference image (D) contains the high frequency components that distinguish the HD image from the SD image, while the base image (B) contains the remaining low frequency information. When the base image (B) by itself can serve as the SD image, the difference image (D) could then be formulated to contain the set of information that is present only in the HD image, not the SD image.

Further, the SD image can be sampled at a reduced resolution, with a smaller lattice (such as 720x480), sufficient to contain the lower half of the frequency spectrum, and later scaled (SD') to match the sample lattice (e.g. 1440x960) of the HDTV image where it may be easily recombined in the spatial domain with the difference image (D) to produce the reconstructed HD image (HD').

While the lower frequencies are significantly more important than high frequencies in terms of perceptible contribution to the overall image (HD'), the high frequency information is still needed to establish the "look and feel" of an HD image.

Although the difference image may be expected to contain up to three times more information than the base image, not all portions of the difference image contribute equally to the overall perceptible quality of the final reconstructed HD image. The essential information in (D) needed to emulate the look and feel of the HD image may in fact be a small subset of D, in particular concentrated along edges and areas of texture,

and may be further approximated very coarsely. This concept is essentially supported by the practice in the block coding methods of JPEG and MPEG where high frequency DCT coefficients are more coarsely quantized than low frequency DCT coefficients.

The MPEG coding tools are not optimized for coding these essential difference areas efficiently at extremely low bit-rates (or in other words, high compression factors). MPEG is tuned towards visual approximation of an image with a balance of detail and generic content at appropriately matched resolutions. For example, the luminance samples of a typical still frame will be represented as an MPEG intra-frame (I) in approximately one fourth the rate of the "non-coded" PCM frame, and the average predicted frame (P,B) only one fifteenth the size of the PCM frame.

The classifier stage of the invention serves as a key tool for identifying those areas of the picture of greater subjective importance, so that enhancement coding may be emphasized there. At the same time, the process also objectively places emphasis on those areas where the difference energy is greater, such as edges.

Strong horizontal, vertical, and diagonal edges, for example, can be identified at lower resolutions, such as the SD base layer. It is possible to identify within the SD image areas that should result in a combination of high frequency and high perceptible patterns in the HD image. Unfortunately, sufficient clues in the base image are not accessible to accurately estimate the actual difference information for those areas, although reasonable guesses bounded by constraints imprinted in the base layer are possible, and have been developed by various prior "sub-pixel" developments. To meet real-time implementation constraints, prior art interpolation schemes would generate "synthetic highs" through contrast enhancement or sharpening filters. The most common algorithm for interpolating image is a filter that convolves the lower resolution samples with a curve that models the distribution of energy in the higher resolution sample lattice, such as the sinc() function.

Superficially sharp, high resolution images restored by synthetically means from low resolution images often looks contrived or artificial byproduct, and quality gains may be inconsistent.

Accurate identification of picture areas is possible with knowledge of the original HD image, but such an image is available only to the encoder residing at the transmitter side. Enhancement information can be explicitly transmitted with this knowledge to guide the HD reconstruction process, and thus produce more natural looking "highs". However enhancement data can easily lead to a significant bit rate increase over the base layer data.

The more accurate the highs can be estimated by the receiver, the less enhancement information is needed to improve the reconstructed HD signal to a given quality level. A particular tool useful for minimizing the volume of enhancement information is classification.

Classification can be used to partially predict the enhancement layer and/or prioritize those areas that need to be enhanced. Classification also permits different coding tools to be used on different classes of picture data. For example, in flat areas the SD to HD interpolation algorithm may dither, while pixels determined to belong to an edge class may benefit from directional filtering and enhancement data.

As appropriate for the overall enhancement technique, classification can be accomplished in the frequency or spatial domains. A classifier is also characterized by the granularity of the classified result (such as on a per pixel or block basis), and by the window of support for each granule.

The window of the classifier is the size of the support area used in the classification analysis. For example, to determine the class of a single target pixel, the surrounding 5x5 area may be measured along with the target pixel in order to accurately measure its gradient.

Familiar to video compression, a good balance between implementation complexity, bitrate, and quality can be achieved with block-based coding. The negative tradeoff is manifested by inaccuracies that result at block edges and the other blocking artifacts.

The preferred PHD classification scheme employs block-based frequency and spatial domain operators at a granularity of 4x4 pixels with respect to the base layer, and 8x8 pixels with respect to the HD image. Local image geometry (flat, edge, etc.) is first determined through a series of comparisons of measurements derived from frequency coefficients of a 4x4 DCT taken on a non-overlapping block within in the base image. Overlapping is also possible, but not implemented in the preferred embodiment. The small 4x4 block size has many of the desired properties of a local spatial domain operation, but with greater regularity and reduced complexity compared to both per-pixel granular operations, and generally most known effective all-spatial domain operations.

Calculating classification components

Figures 3b and 3d provide the fundamental stages of the preferred classifier embodiment that are common to both the encoder and decoder. Fig. 3d discloses the classifier component calculations **3130** of Fig. 3b.

Blocking

Blocks of data are extracted from the input frame **3100** in the processing order of the enhancement decoder. The preferred processor order is raster, from left to right and top to bottom of the picture, with non-overlapping blocks. Alternate embodiments may overlap blocks in order to improve classification accuracy. For example, a 3x3 target block may be processed from a 4x4 input block. In the 3x3 within 4x4 block example, the overlap areas would comprise a single row and column of extra pixels. Each successive 3x3 picture area would then be processed from a 4x4 block with a unique combination of samples formed from the base picture. The 4x4 input block would step three pixels for each advance in either or both the x and y directions.. A new set of classification

parameters would be derived for each 3x3 picture area. Other overlaps are possible, but in general, the overlap and target blocks may be arbitrarily shaped as long as the base and enhancement layers are aligned.

DCT

In the preferred embodiment, the DCT-II algorithm is applied in the 4x4 DCT **3312** to produce the coefficients **3314** whose combinations are used as feature component measurements **3332** for the decision stage **3140**. Variations include the DCT-I and DCT-III, non-DCT algorithms, and pseudo-DCT algorithms such as those experimented with by the ITU-T H.264 study group. Generally, any transform which produces coefficients useful in the classification of a picture area can substitute for the preferred block DCT, however adjustments to the ratio calculations in **3130** and decision tree **3140** may be necessary to account for the different characteristics of each transforms unique coefficient sets.

The 8-bit precision of the transform coefficients and 16-bit intermediate pipeline stages are sufficient to support the expansion of data in the transform size and the accuracy needed to discriminate one class from another. The preferred transform is designed to operate within the 16-bit SIMD arithmetic limitations of the Intel MMX architecture which serves as an exemplary platform for PHD DVD authoring.

Spatial analysis

The Weber function provides a more accurate measurement of picture area flatness than a single combination of DCT coefficients.

The Weber component **3322** calculated in **3320** follows the formula summarized as:

compute difference between max value of block and average block value
if the difference / average <= 0.03, then it is flat (isFlag=1), else isFlag=0.

Frequency analysis

Component generator **3330** takes measurements **3132** conducted on the 4x4 blocks and produces decision variables **3332, 3132** used in the decision process **3140** to create classification terms **3142**. The block measurements **3132** comprise both frequency measurements **3314** (in the preferred embodiment realized by the 4x4 DCT transform **3312**) and spatial domain measurements **3322** (in the preferred embodiment realized by a flatness operator **3320**) .

Input blocks **3310, 3122** formatted from the base layer reconstructed image **3100** are transformed via the 4x4 DCT **3312**, producing coefficients **3314**. The component generator stage **3332** takes sets of coefficients **3314** shown in Fig. 3e, and squares and sums coefficients within each set to produce class components **3332**, P1 through P7. Each set of DCT coefficients, and its resulting measurement term (P1..P7), represents the identifying characteristic of a geometric shape such as an edge, texture, flat area.

The seven 4x4 DCT coefficient templates in Fig. 3e shows increasing horizontal frequency is along the U-axis with set of indices {0,1,2,3}, and increasing vertical frequency along the V-axis with indices {A,B,C,D}.

Each of the components P1..P7 represent the following geometry features: P1 -- horizontal edges, P2 -- horizontal texture, P3 -- vertical edges, P4 -- vertical texture, P5 -- diagonal edges, P6 -- texture, and P7 -- energy/variance of the block.

```
(P1) diag = B1*B1 + C2*C2 + D3*D3
(P2) inf0 = B0*B0 + C0*C0 + D0*D0 + C1*C1 + D1*D1 + D2*D2
(P3) inf1 = B0*B0 + C0*C0 + D0*D0
(P4) sup0 = A1*A1 + A2*A2 + A3*A3 + B2*B2 + B3*B3 + C3*C3
(P5) sup1 = A1*A1 + A2*A2 + A3*A3
(P6) text = C2*C2 + C3*C3 + D2*D2 + D3*D3
(P7)  tot = diag  +  sup0 +  inf0
```

Ratios:

From the seven component measures (P1..P7), eight ratios (R0..R7) are derived that are used in the decision process **3140** to select the class for each block.

```
R0 = diag / tot
R1 = sup0 / (sup0 + inf0)
R2 = sup1 / sup0
R3 = inf0 / (sup0 + inf0)
R4 = inf1 / inf0
R5 = text / (sup0 + inf0)
R6 = sup1 / (sup0 + inf0)
R7 = inf1 / (sup0 + inf0)
```

Pre-calculated ranges

In order to improve accuracy of the codebook and run-time classification passes, two *pre-*classification passes **5310, 5320, 5330** are made through the decoded base layer signal **5027, 5305**, to measure the statistics of classification components. Specifically, thresholds **5317** and energy ranges **5327** are produced in the first and second passes respectively. The third classification pass **5330** selects the class for each training block **5332** used in codebook generation stage **5340**. The codebook is trained on the decoded base layer signal; the results of the third pre-classification stage therefore **5332** model (sans IDCT drift error) the run-time classifier **5040** results of downstream decoder classifier.

Ratios R0..R7 are calculated in the classification stage as above, and then compared to pre-determined thresholds to establish 17 energy ranges **5327**.

Ranges and thresholds (shown collectively as side information **5234**) are maintained in memory **5180** for later application in the class decision stage **3140.** To save computation time, and spare the decoder from having to add significant latency, the encoder packs the

ranges and thresholds into the PHD stream **5252**, where on the receiver side, they are later parsed and integrated into the state machine **3620** by the PHD decoder during each codebook update.

To improve accuracy of classification, the components used in the classification decision process are adaptively quantized according training block statistics. The quantized levels are indicated by thresholds **5315** which are calculated from an equi-probable partitioning of histograms measured during the first pre-classification training pass **5310**.

Pass 1, generate adaptive quantization thresholds:

For each training block..

```
if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 <= 0.90))
  hist_add( hist1, R1 );
else if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 > 0.90))
  hist_add( hist2, R1 );
else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 <= 0.90))
  hist_add( hist3, R3 );
else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 > 0.90))
  hist_add( hist4, R3 );
```

Hist_add(arg1, arg2) updates respective histogram (indicated by arg1) with the data point arg2. Each histogram is allocated to track a range of values divided into a specified number of partitions. Each update of arg2 will increment the corresponding partition identified by arg2 by one count.

At the end of the training sequence, hist_convg(arg1, arg2, arg3, arg4) partitions thresholds **5315** (arg3) into arg4 number of equi-probable partitions according to the statistics stored in the respective histogram arg1:

At the end of the training session..

```
hist_convg( hist1, hcenters, thresh1,  2 );
hist_convg( hist2, hcenters, thresh2,  5 );
hist_convg( hist3, hcenters, thresh3,  2 );
hist_convg( hist4, hcenters, thresh4,  5 );
```

The second parameter, arg2, of Hist_conv() provides additional statistics including the average and standard deviation squared of each partition.

Pass 2, measure energy:

Note: isFlat is the result of the Weber calculation **3320**.

```
if (isFlat)
    idx = 0;
else
{
  if (R0 >= 0.55)
   idx = 1;
  else
  {
    if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 <= 0.90))
    {
      if (R1 < thresh1[0])
        idx =2;
      else
        idx = 3;
    }
    else if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 > 0.90))
    {
      if (R1 < thresh2[0])
```

```
        idx = 4;
      else if (R1 < thresh2[1])
        idx = 5;
      else if (R1 < thresh2[2])
        idx = 6;
      else if (R1 < thresh2[3])
        idx = 7;
      else
        idx = 8;
    }
    else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 <= 0.90))
    {
      if (R3 < thresh3[0])
        idx = 9;
      else
        idx = 10;
    }
    else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 > 0.90))
    {
      if(R3 < thresh4[0])
        idx = 11;
      else if (R3 < thresh4[1])
        idx = 12;
      else if (R3 < thresh4[2])
        idx = 13;
      else if (R3 < thresh4[3])
        idx = 14;
      else
        idx = 15;
    }
    else
      idx = 16;
```

```
t[idx][count[idx]] = Etot;
count[idx] = count[idx] + 1;
min_energy_class[idx] =
  MYMIN( min_energy_class[idx], Etot );
max_energy_class[idx] =
  MYMAX( max_energy_class[idx], Etot );
```

At the end of the second pre-classification pass **5320** of the training sequence, the statistics in temporary variable arrays t[] and count[] are used to calculate 17 energy_range[] **5325** constants used in the classification stage.

```
for (i = 0; i < 17; i++)
{
  median(count[i],&t[i][0],&median_val);
  energy_range[i] = median_val;
}
```

Determining class by decision tree

To arrive at a specific class, the classifier uses the component measurements produced in **3510, 3330,** to descend a decision tree, comparing class components **3332** and pre-calculated ranges **(3102, 5180, 5240, 5234, 5315)**. The generic cyclical flow of the classification process is given in Fig. 3f. Comparisons are made **3520** until a state process indicates that a class has been arrived at **3530**. With the binary decision branch process depicted, the number of iterations should be approximately the logarithm of the number of available classes. Means of implementing the decision tree include procedural code (nested if statements) given below, and parallel flow-graph testing (not shown).

A state machine realization of the decision tree is given in flowchart Fig. 3g. The state machine is expected to be the easiest State parameters table **3620** is indexed by variable

L, initialized to zero **3610**. The resulting state parameters **3621** include branch positive address *L1*, branch negative address *L2*, classification component identifiers *p1* and *p2*, multiplier constant *k*, offset *T*, and termination bits *e1* and *e2*.

Component identifiers *p1* and *p2* select which classification ratios in the set *P1..P7* are to be compared in **3640**. The values for p1 and p2 are selected **3630** from the class component register array *cc* and compared as *a* and *b* in formula **3640**. The branch addresses *L1* are the next location in the state code **3620** that the state program reaches if the comparison in **3640** is positive, and *L2* is the location if the comparison is negative. If either or both of the comparison results indicate a terminal condition, that is a terminal node with a specific class is finally reached, then either or both terminal state bits *e1, e2* will be set to '1' potentially causing the loop to exit Y at **3650**. In a terminal cases (where *E*==1), state variables *L1* and *L2* encode the class index **3632** which forms part of the state **3142** in Fig. 3b needed to perform, at least, the LUT **3150**.

A procedural example of the decision tree is below. Energy_class:

```
if (isFlat)
  energy_class[i] = 0;
else
{
  if (R0 >= 0.55) // diagional
  {
    if (Etot < energy_range[1])
    {
      energy_class[i] = 1;
    }
    else
    {
      energy_class[i] = 2;
    }
  }
  else
```

```
{
  if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 <= 0.90))
  {
    if (R1 < thresh1[0]) // vert_text_0
     {
      if (Etot < energy_range[2])
        energy_class[i] = 3;
      else
          energy_class[i] = 4;
     }
     else // vert_text_1
      {
       if (Etot < energy_range[3]) // vert_text
        energy_class[i] = 5;
       else
        energy_class[i] = 6;
      }
  }
  else if ((R1 > 0.60) && (R2 > 0.90))
  {
   if (R1 < thresh2[0]) // count_vert_0
   {
        if (Etot < energy_range[4])
         energy_class[i] = 7;
        else
            energy_class[i] = 8;
   }
   else if (R1 < thresh2[1]) // vert_1
   {
     if (Etot < energy_range[5])
        energy_class[i] = 9;
      else
        energy_class[i] = 10;
   }
   else if (R1 < thresh2[2]) // vert_2
```

```
{
  if (Etot < energy_range[6])
     energy_class[i] = 11;
   else
     energy_class[i] = 12;
}
else if (R1 < thresh2[3]) // vert_3
{
  if (Etot < energy_range[7])
    energy_class[i] = 13;
    else
      energy_class[i] = 14;
}
else // vert_4
{
  if (Etot < energy_range[8])
    energy_class[i] = 15;
   else
     energy_class[i] = 16;
}
else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 <= 0.90))
{
  if (R3 < thresh3[0]) // text_0
    {
        if (Etot < energy_range[9])
          energy_class[i] = 17;
       else
         energy_class[i] = 18;
    }
  else //  horz_text_1
  {
   if (Etot < energy_range[10])
      energy_class[i] = 19;
    else
     energy_class[i] = 20;
```

```
    }
  }
  else if ((R3 > 0.60) && (R4 > 0.90))
  {
    if (R3 < thresh4[0]) // horz_0
    {
      if (Etot < energy_range[11])
        energy_class[i] = 21;
      else
        energy_class[i] = 22;
    }
   else if (R3 < thresh4[1]) // horz_1
   {
    if (Etot < energy_range[12])
        energy_class[i] = 23;
     else
        energy_class[i] = 24;
   }
  else if (R3 < thresh4[2])  // horz_2
  {
   if (Etot < energy_range[13])
     energy_class[i] = 25;
    else
        energy_class[i] = 26;
  }
  else if (R3 < thresh4[3]) // horz_3
  {
   if (Etot < energy_range[14])
     energy_class[i] = 27;
   else
      energy_class[i] = 28;
  }
  else
  {
    if (Etot < energy_range[15]) // horz_4
```

```
            energy_class[i] = 29;
          else
            energy_class[i] = 30;
            count_++;
      }
  }
  else // ((R5 < 0.35) && (R6 < 0.65) && (R7 < 0.65))
  { // text_0
    if (Etot < energy_range[16])
      energy_class[i] = 31;
    else
      energy_class[i] = 32;
  }
```

Entire scenes, or individual pictures often do not contain significant detail in the original high-definition format signal beyond the detail that would be prescribed in any standard definition derivative of the high-definition signal. In such cases when there is insufficient difference between the high definition original signal **5012** and predictive signal **5032**, it more efficient to turn off enhancement block coding, while predictive interpolation continues to operate under both conditions in one mode or another.

To determine whether enhancement blocks should be sent for an area (encapsulated as a stripe), picture, or scene, the selective enhancement analyzer **5420** estimates the perceptivity of the difference signal **5037** for each block prior to both the VQ codebook training and run-time coding phases. Although many models exist for perceptivity, the simple energy formula calculated as the square of all N elements within the block serves as a reasonable approximation. The preferred embodiment applies the following formula:

$$e = \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} (block[i])^2$$

Three control parameters **5422** regulate the selection algorithm in **5420**. The first user control parameter, `energy_threshold`, sets the level of energy for a block to meet in order to be selected for enhancement by the encoder. Since the measurement is made on the difference signal **5037**, only the encoder can make such a judgment, although special cases such as flat areas (described earlier) that do not have associated indices are determined by the receiver through measurements on the base layer signal.

User control parameter `stripe_block_ratio_threshold` sets the minimum ratio of selected blocks within a stripe that must meet the perceptivity criteria in order for the slice to be coded. User control parameter `block_max` sets the level in which, regardless of the ratio of selected enhancement blocks, the stripe would be coded. This accounts for isolated but visually significant blocks.

Stripe headers include a 3-bit modulo index `strip_counter` so that the decoder can distinguish between non-coded gaps in the enhancement picture and stripes that have been lost to channel loss such as dropped or corrupted packets.

Blocks that do not meet the enhancement threshold are not applied during the VQ training process.

The is_picture_enhanced variable in the picture header signals whether enhancement blocks are present for the current picture. For finger granular control, the is_strip_enhanced flag in the strip header can turn enhancement blocks on or off for all blocks within a strip(). In many cases, only a small subset of the picture has sufficient detail to merit enhancement, usually those areas that the camera had in focus. In such cases, the encoder can adapt the strip() structure to encapsulate only those detail areas, and leave the rest of the picture without strip() coverage. The x-y position indicators within the strip() header allow the strip() to be positioned anywhere within the picture.

PHD run-time encoding (5050)

Enhancement data **5052** is generated for those blocks whose class has associated enhancement blocks **5062**. Of the thirty three classes, class 0, the category for flat areas, requires no transmission of indices. The statistical expectation is that at least one in three blocks will be classified as flat, and for some scenes, flat blocks will constitute a majority of blocks. Thus the bitrate savings can be substantial by not transmitting enhancement block indices for areas that do not sufficiently benefit from enhancement. Since the encoder and decoder have an identical understanding the enhancement syntax and semantics, the decoder parser does not expect indices for non-coded enhancement blocks.

For those classes with associated enhancement data, the VLC index is packed within the enhancement bitstream **5262** along with other enhancement elements.. The combination of class and the VLC index are all that is needed to perform an enhancement pattern lookup **5060,** where a difference block is generated **5062** and added **5065** to the corresponding predicted-interpolated block **5032**. The same lookup procedure is performed in the receiver.

Small discrepancies in the reconstructed enhanced signal **5067** may exist due to difference among standard-compliant MPEG video reconstructions **5024**. No one model of the decoder **5025** applies universally. Drift free reconstruction is possible only if the IDCT in the encoder is matched to the IDCT in the receiver. The difference signal, or *drift*, between the model decoder **5025** and the actual downstream decoder originates due to round-off errors in the integer approximation of the standard-defined floating point IDCT algorithm. The drift should be limited to an occasional least significant bit difference, but in pathological cases designed to accumulate worst case patterns, drift has been known to build to visible artifacts. Consequentially, drift can cause discrepancies between the encoder model classifier result **5047** and classification result **4142** in the downstream decoder. With proper threshold design, these discrepancy cases are rare and detectable through the *class_checksum* mechanism in the header of each strip(). When *class_checksum* and the receiver calculated checksum differ, enhancement is not applied

for those blocks for which the checksum applies. The specific *class_checksum* element applies to all blocks contained within the strip().

The preferred embodiment applies the well known CRC-32 algorithm to generate the bitstream checksum *class_checksum* and receiver checksum to which it is compared. Other hash algorithms could be applied, but CRC-32 circuitry is common in existing receivers with MPEG-2 video decoders.

Entropy coding

The JPEG-2000 arithmetic coder is utilized by the invention for both codebook and enhancement block index transmission.

New codebooks are transmitted as raw samples. One codebook is sent for each class that has specified transmitted indices. For classes that do not have codevectors, the *size_of_class* variable (Fig. 7) is set to zero. The order of the codevectors within each codebook is at the discretion of the encoder. The encoder should take care that the indices correspond to the correct codevector entry within the transmitted order codebook table.

Cbk[class_num][k] = sample(8 bits);

Codebook updates are sent as run-length encoded differences between corresponding blocks in the first codebook and the second codebook. One set of context models are created for each class. A first context model measures run of zeros, while the second context addresses amplitude.

```
Diff_cbk[c][v][k] = new_cbk[c][v][k] - prev_cbk[c][v][k]
```

The difference codebook, *diff_cbk*, is calculated as the sample-wise difference between the new codebook, *new_vector*, and the old codebook, *prev_cbk*. Most *diff_cbk* samples will be zero, followed by small amplitudes.

Specific arithmetic coding context models are created for each class of the enhancement block indices. The first context is the original index alphabet to each class sub-table. A second context is the average of the previously transmitted above and left blocks.

The arithmetic coder is reset for each strip.

PHD decoding

PHD decoding is a subset of the encoder operation, and is precisely modeled by the encoder as illustrated in Fig. 5a. Specifically, MPEG-2 decode base layer 5025 is 4110, predictive interpolation 5030 is 4130, classifier 5040 is 4140, VQ decoder 5060 is 4107, adder 5065 is 4150, and frame buffer store 5070 is 4170.

Codebook generation

Virtually any codebook design algorithm can be used to generate the enhancement codebook **5140.** The codebook could also be selected from a set of universal codebooks rather than created from some training process on the video signal to be encoded. The preferred PHD vector quantization codebook design algorithm is a hybrid of the Generalized Lloyd Algorithm (GLA), Pair-wise Nearest Neighbor (PNN), and BFOS algorithms described in [Garrido95]. The hybrid is continuously applied to each video scene. Training sequences **5130** are derived from a set of filtered HD images **5160, 5012,** rather than original HD images **5007, 5170**. Although it would be less expensive not to have the pre-processing stage **5010**, the original HD source images are not used for comparison since it may contain data patterns that are either unnecessary for the application, or unrealistic to approximate with PHD coding. The difference signal **5332, 5037** generated as the difference between the cleaned signal **5014** stored in **5013, 5160** and the interpolative-predicted signal **5032** is then fed to the codebook generator **5340**.

A potential codebook **5140** is transmitted along with each scene, where it is then parsed by the PHD decoder at the receiver side, and stored in long term memory **5160** for application throughout a scene or, in special cases, applied repeatedly in future scenes.

Syntax

The PHD syntax is structured to a hierarchy (Fig. 7e) resembling traditional video coding layers known for efficient and robust parsing. A scene roughly corresponds to a typical video sequence (Fig. 7h), and in addition to codebook updates, includes the energy threshold parameters **5317, 5327** used in the classification stages. Picture headers *enhancement_picture()* delineate sets of indices corresponding to the enhancement blocks for a given picture. The picture header identifies the current enhancement picture number, *picture_number*, and the picture payload comprises one or more strips that select which codebook *codebook_number* is to be applied for those blocks contained within the strip.

Referencing multiple codebooks

Duration of codebook:

A codebook is created for application upon a scene which typically lasts from half a second to several seconds, such as **8210**, **8220**, and **8230** depicted in Fig. 8c. In extreme cases, the lengths of scenes can range from a few pictures to several minutes (thousands of pictures). Since every scene has unique image statistics and characteristics, codebooks optimized for each scene will produce better quality results for a given index rate. The overhead of sending codebooks also significantly impacts the quality-rate tradeoff. Frequent transmission of codebooks will offset the index quality gains, and potentially penalizing quality in the base bitstream (if the base stream is jointly optimized), or leave less room for future codebooks on the disc volume. Some scene changes, such as camera angle cuts with similar background (e.g. two characters talking to each other) may precipitate codebooks that largely overlap with previously sent codebooks. The differential and dynamic codebook update mechanisms disclosed herein address these cases. Pointers to previously sent codebooks (Fig. 8e) may also be more efficient for short, repeating scenes.

The PHD advantage of exploiting long-term correlations is partly illustrated in Fig. 8c by the ability of a codebook (aligned to a scene) to span periods exceeding the nominal

enforced "group of pictures" (GOP) dependency periods, and thus saves bits compared to a strategy where codebook are automatically sent for each GOP. Thus, for example instead of transmitting a codebook every 0.5 seconds – the period of the Intra-picture or GOP --- the codebook need only be transmitted every few seconds. The random access period for the enhancement layer will thus consequentially be greater than the base layer, but as long as a base layer picture can be built with the normal short latency, a good approximation for the purposes of non-predetermined trick play can be satisfied. New codebooks are forced by the DVD authoring tools for pre-determined jumps within the DVD volume, such as angle or layer changes. Thus playback along the pre-constructed linear stream timeline will maintain constant enhanced picture quality.

In this invention, GOP is applied more widely to mean independently decodable collection of pictures, typically constructed in MPEG video stream to facilitate random access and minimize DCT drift error. "group_of_pictures()" has a narrower meaning in the MPEG video specification than this description, but fits within the definition given here. For this invention, GOP is a generic term, and superset of the formal MPEG definition, that delineates any collection of dependently coded pictures. The duration of the GOP is typically 0.5 seconds in DVD applications, but the exact boundary of a GOP may be adjusted for scene changes or coding efficiency.

Random access to a codebook can be optimized for scene changes, buffer statistics, chapter marks, and physical models such as location of the scene data within the disc.

Nominally, multiple bitstream types such as audio, video, subpicture are time division multiplexed (TDM) within a common DVD program stream. Data for each stream type is buffered before decoding by each of the respective stream type decoders. As illustrated in Fig. 8d, these buffers can allow extreme variation in the time in which coded data corresponding to one frame enters the buffer, and the time when it is later decoded and presented (e.g. to display). For purposes of buffer modeling, these stream types are deemed concurrent, although are actually serially multiplexed at the granularity of a stream packet. If a concurrent multiplex of the codebook would adversely affect other

concurrent stream types (video, audio), such leaving too little bits for other concurrent streams, the encoder may send the codebook far ahead in time during a less active period of the base layer.

Multiplex method

The majority of DVD payload packets are consumed by a single MPEG-2 System Program Stream comprising a multiplex of Packetized Elementary Streams (PES) as depicted in Fig. 8a. DVD packets (8004, 8006, 8008, 8010, 8012, 8014, 8016, etc) are 2048 bytes long, but other non-DVD applications to which PHD are applicable may have other fixed or variable packet lengths. The flexible aspects of the of the DVD cell **8002, 8102** structure (buffering, type order and frequency) are determined by the DVD author. The example cell **8002** demonstrates the dominance of video packets owing to the larger share of the bitstream consumed by video. The actual order of packet types within the stream is arbitrary, within the limitations of buffering prescribed by the DVD standard and other standards incorporated by reference such as MPEG-2. Each concurrent data type within a DVD title is encapsulated in the multiplex as a separate PES. The program stream is an assembly of interleaved concurrent PES stream packets. The standard definition video signal (packets **8006, 8008, 8016**) is coded, as per DVD specification, with certain parameter restrictions on the MPEG-2 video tool and performance combination well known as the "Main Profile @ Main Level" (MP@ML). Other data types include Dolby AC-3 (**8008**), Sub-picture (**8014**), and navigation (**8004**) layers. Each PES stream is given unique identifier in the packet header. Room in the ID space was reserved for future stream types to be uniquely identified through the RID (Registered Stream ID) mechanism maintained by, for example, the SMPTE Registration Authority (SMPTE-RA).

PHD would appear as an additional private stream type within the multiplex (Fig. 8b), with an identifying RID. Because they appear as a private stream type, PHD packets can be ignored by older DVD players without consequence to the reconstructed MP@ML base layer video. Other multiplexing schemes such as MPEG-2 Transport Stream (TS),

IETF RTP, TCP/IP, UDP, can be adapted to encapsulate PHD enhancement stream appropriate for each application. MPEG-2 TS, for example, are suited for broadcast applications such as satellite, terrestrial, and digital cable television, while RTP might be chosen for streaming over the internet or a Ethernet LAN. Program Streams are required by the DVD-Video specification, whereas emerging DVD formats such as Blu-Ray have adopted MPEG-2 Transport Streams as the multiplex format.

Codebooks are a significant portion of the PHD enhancement stream. A new codebook or codebook update is optionally downloaded at the beginning of each scene. The other major portion of the enhancement stream comprise indices for coded enhancement blocks.

We claim:

Claims

1. A method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving base layer images of standard definition pictures from a base layer decoder;

defining image areas of said standard definition pictures;

classifying image areas into image types by assigning a class number; and

generating enhanced pictures based upon said standard definition pictures and said classification of the image areas.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of generating enhanced images comprises adding base images and difference images.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising a step of generating said difference images containing information that is present only in said high-definition pictures.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising a step of prioritizing image areas that need to be enhanced.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of classifying image areas comprises using different coding tools for different classes of picture data.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving base layer images of standard definition pictures comprises receiving standard definition pictures derived from high-definition pictures through filtering and subsampling.

7. The method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving base images of standard definition pictures comprises receiving base images coded with a transform coder.

8. The method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal of claim 1 wherein said step of receiving base images of standard definition pictures comprises receiving base images coded with MPEG.

9. The method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal of claim 8 wherein said step of receiving base images of standard definition pictures comprises receiving base images coded based upon a standard stream on a DVD.

10. The method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal of claim 1 wherein said step of classifying image areas comprises using block-based frequency and spatial domain operations.

11. A method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving base images of standard definition pictures from a base layer decoder;

defining image areas of said base images of standard definition pictures;

classifying said image areas into image types;

receiving a partitioned codebook table based upon said classes of image types; and

generating enhanced pictures based upon the classification of image areas and an enhancement stream vector.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of receiving base layer images of standard definition pictures comprises receiving standard definition pictures derived from high definition pictures through filtering and subsampling.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of generating difference data based upon said high definition pictures.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising a step of generating a vector quantization codebook based upon said high definition pictures.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of classifying image areas into image types comprises assigning a class number to each image area.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said step of classifying image areas into image types comprises assigning a separate sub-table codevector index to each image area.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising a step of prioritizing image areas that need to be enhanced.

18. A circuit for enhancing picture quality of a video signal, said circuit co

mprising:

a base layer decoder;

a classifier coupled to said base layer decoder, said classifier generating a class number for image areas of a standard definition picture;

a summing circuit coupled to said classifier;

an exchange stream decoder coupled to said summing circuit, said exchange stream decoder generating an index; and

a codebook table coupled to said summing circuit, said codebook table storing a plurality of codevectors based upon said class number and said index.

19. The circuit of claim 18 further comprising an interpolator coupled to said base layer decoder.

20. The circuit of claim 19 wherein said interpolator comprises a temporal predictive interpolator.

21. The circuit of claim 19 wherein said interpolator comprises a circuit for providing motion compensation.

22. The circuit of claim 19 wherein said interpolator generates an interpolated image based upon said base image of standard definition pictures.

23. The circuit of claim 22 further comprising a difference block based upon a code-vector in said codebook table.

24. The circuit of claim 19 further comprising an enhanced block based upon said interpolated block and said difference block.

25. The circuit of claim 18 wherein said codebook tables comprise classes of codevectors.

26. The circuit of claim 18 wherein said decoder further comprises an encoder.

27. The circuit of claim 26 wherein said classes are based upon common properties measured on base images and previously enhanced images on the decoder.

28. The circuit of claim 27 wherein said classes are identified in enhancement stream headers.

29. A circuit for enhancing picture quality of a video signal, said circuit comprising:

base layer decoder means;

classifier means coupled to said base layer decoder means, said classifier means generating a class number for image areas of a standard definition picture;

summing circuit means coupled to said classifier;

exchange stream decoder means coupled to said summing circuit means, said exchange stream decoder means generating an index; and

a codebook table coupled to said summing circuit means, said codebook table storing a plurality of codevectors based upon said class number and said index.

30. The circuit of claim 29 further comprising a checksum sent in an enhancement stream header.

31. The circuit of claim 30 wherein said checksum indicates for predetermined sets of blocks corresponding to said enhancement stream header whether a receiver has derived the same set of classes derived by an encoder.

32. The circuit of claim 31 wherein said enhancement stream headers comprise thresholds and ranges for classification.

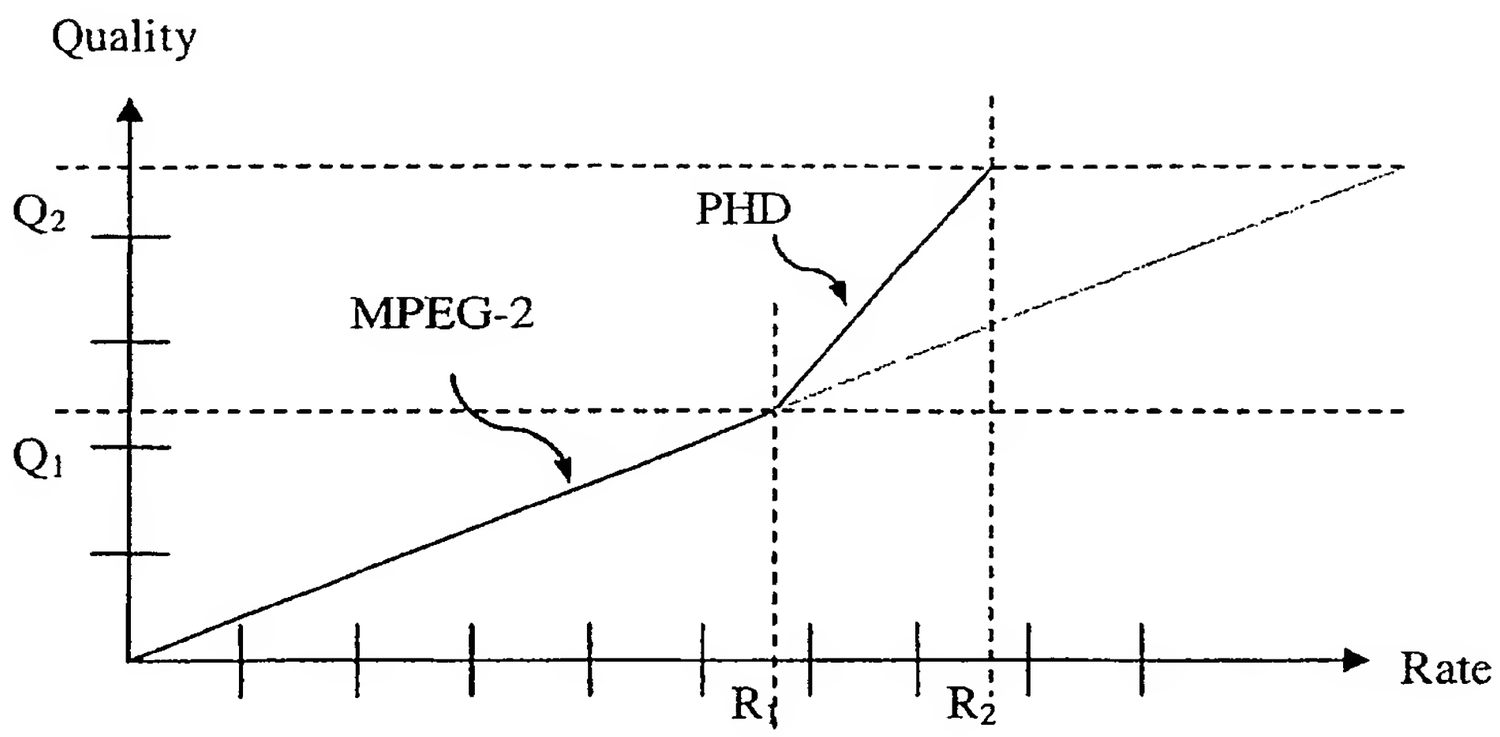


Figure 1a-- Rate-distortion of MPEG-2 / PHD layered combination

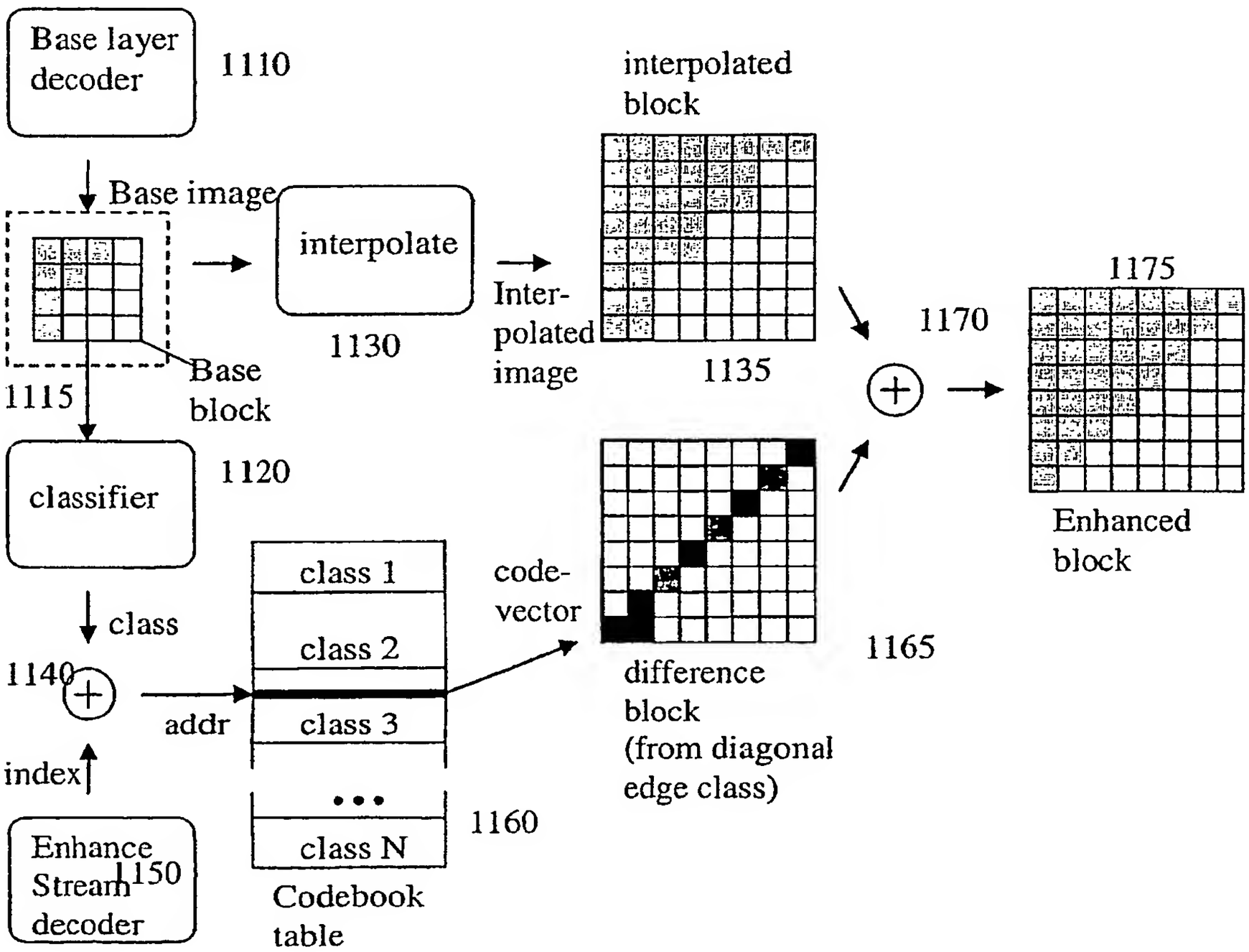


Figure 1b

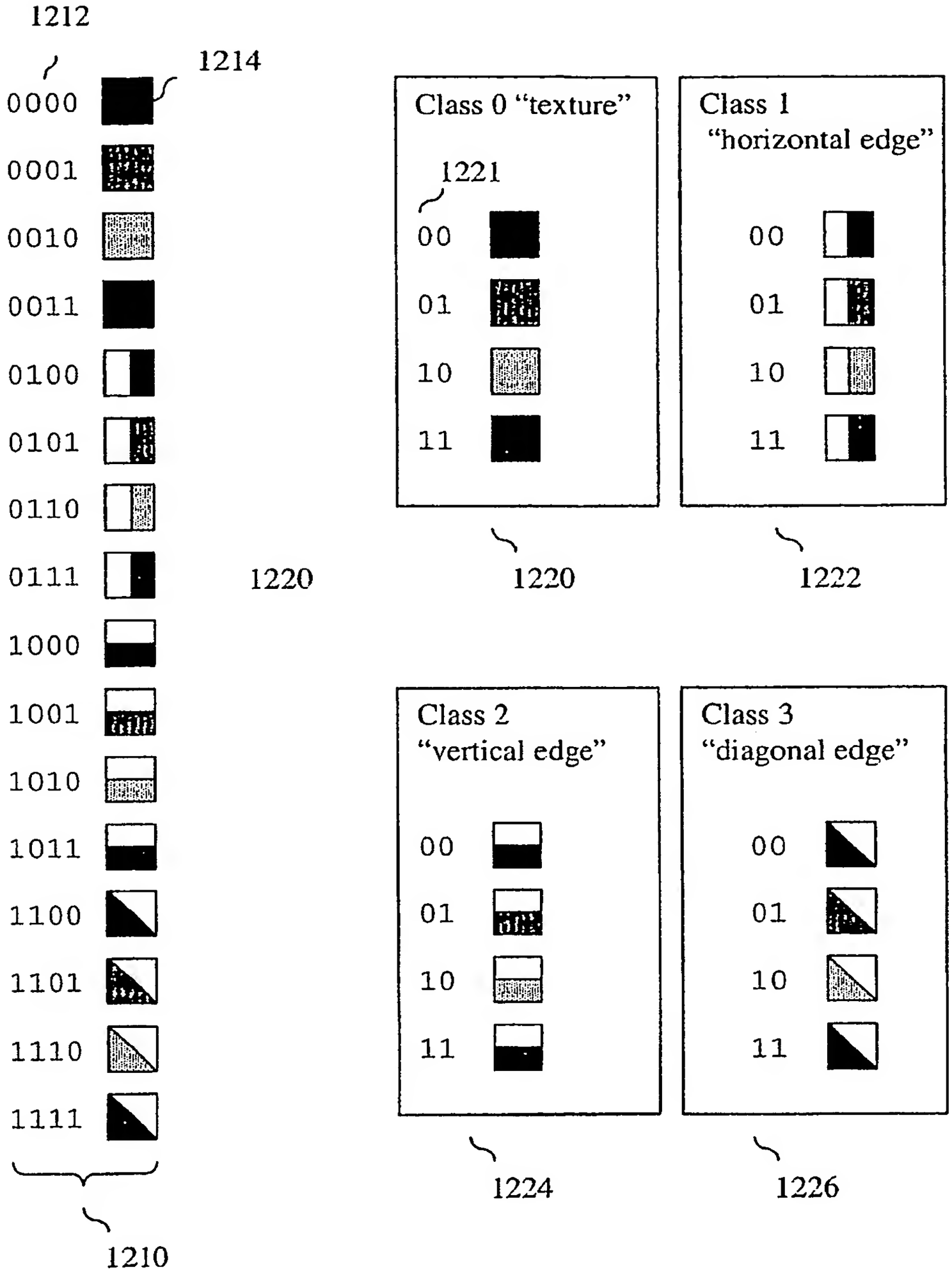


Figure 1c -- Before and after classification patitioning

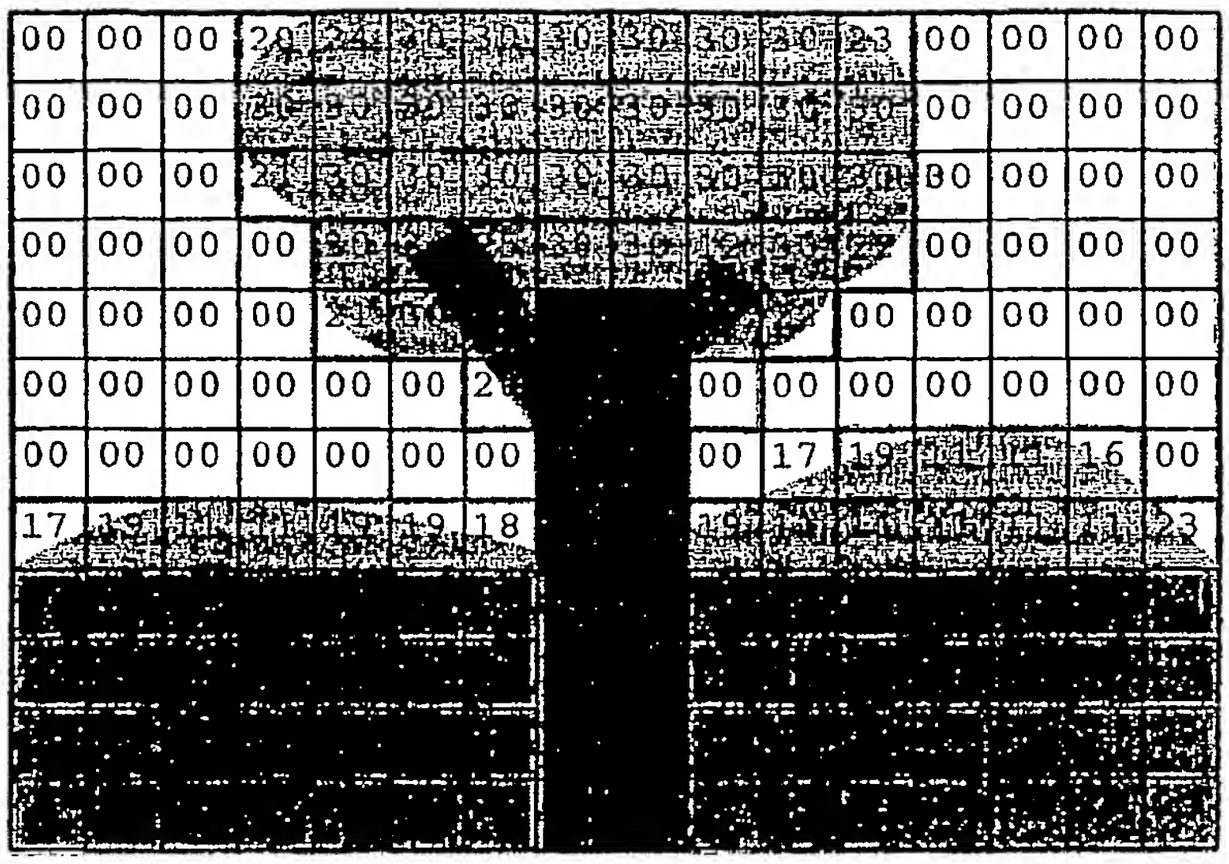


Figure 1d -- example classified image

By index:

36	49	2	21	8	19	19	21	29	30	28	47	35	20	47	58
3	47	7	32	10	56	14	34	20	37	10	1	11	14	18	58
43	38	31	50	6	10	50	37	18	23	21	21	62	26	38	53
7	59	7	14	32	10	18	42	13	9	61	55	24	23	50	45
55	16	33	38	18	21	6	10	50	12	38	31	15	2	0	48
19	7	53	25	44	40	44	43	33	48	28	52	47	55	32	30
37	61	51	54	20	30	39	3	50	2	16	10	25	46	42	34
50	16	45	55	7	46	33	20	51	15	25	34	2	63	58	55
50	26	31	6	21	47	10	47	40	31	54	47	58	30	52	35
19	53	41	58	40	21	24	52	9	59	9	14	34	33	63	62
59	54	18	25	62	50	7	16	7	40	27	12	52	54	12	43
2	50	4	23	43	54	24	61	6	43	29	36	0	47	14	28

Figure 1e -- example indices for image

PRIOR ART SCALABLE SCHEMES

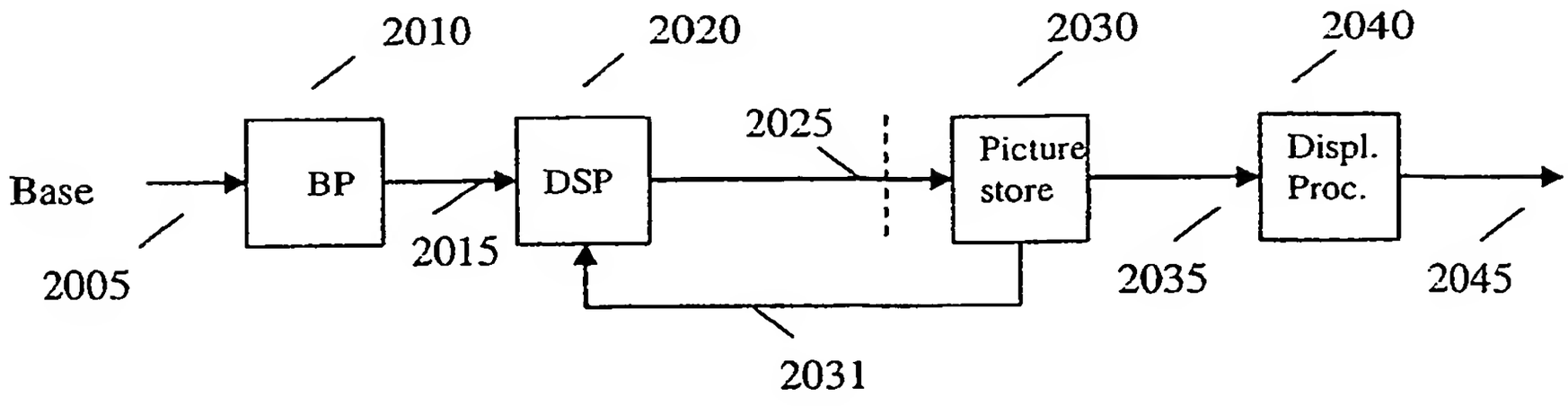


Fig.2a – One non scalable stream

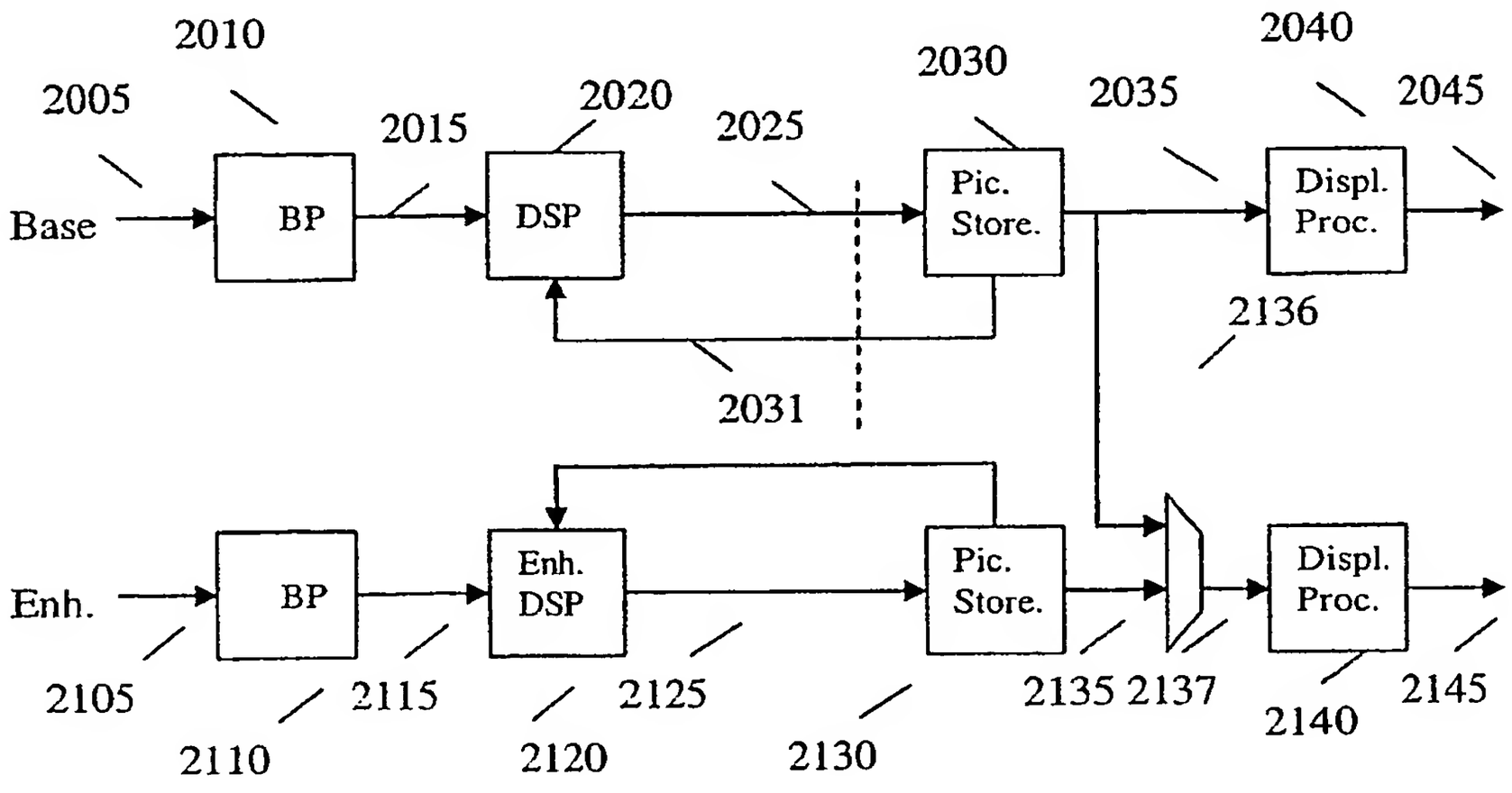


Fig. 2b – Two non-scalable streams, independently decodable ("simulcast")

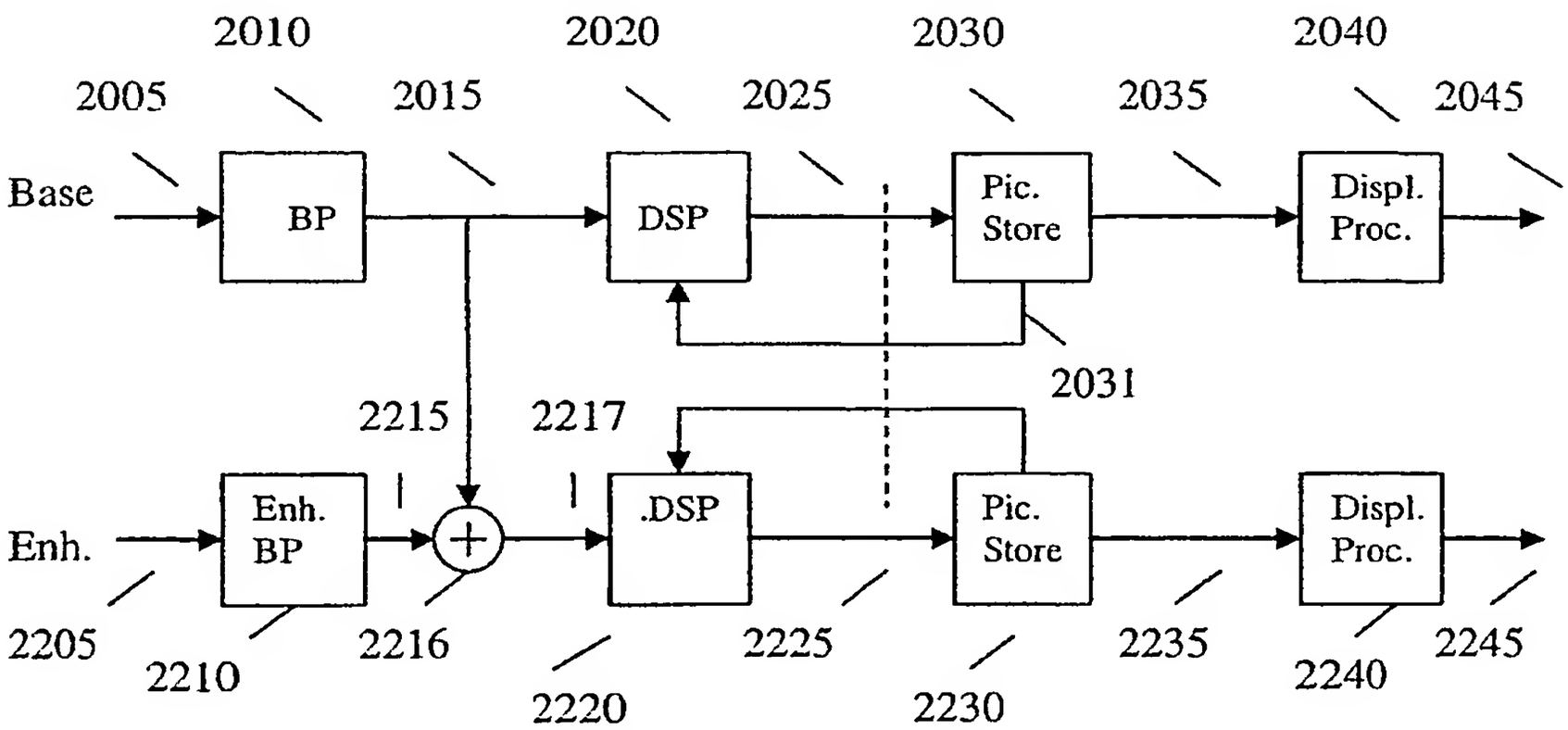


Fig 2c – Layering by token (SNR scalability, data partitioning)

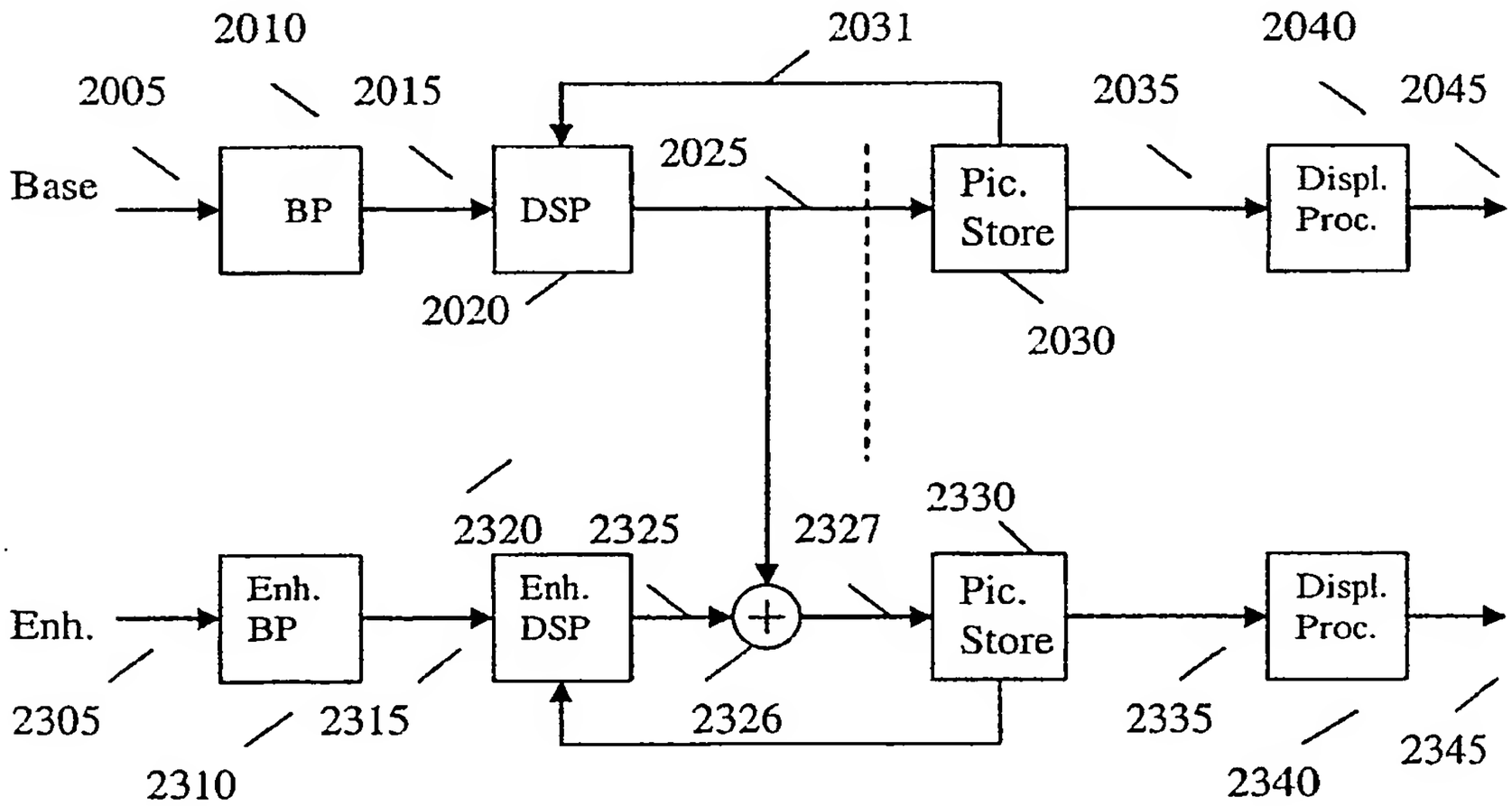


Fig. 2d – Layering by sample (Spatial scalability)

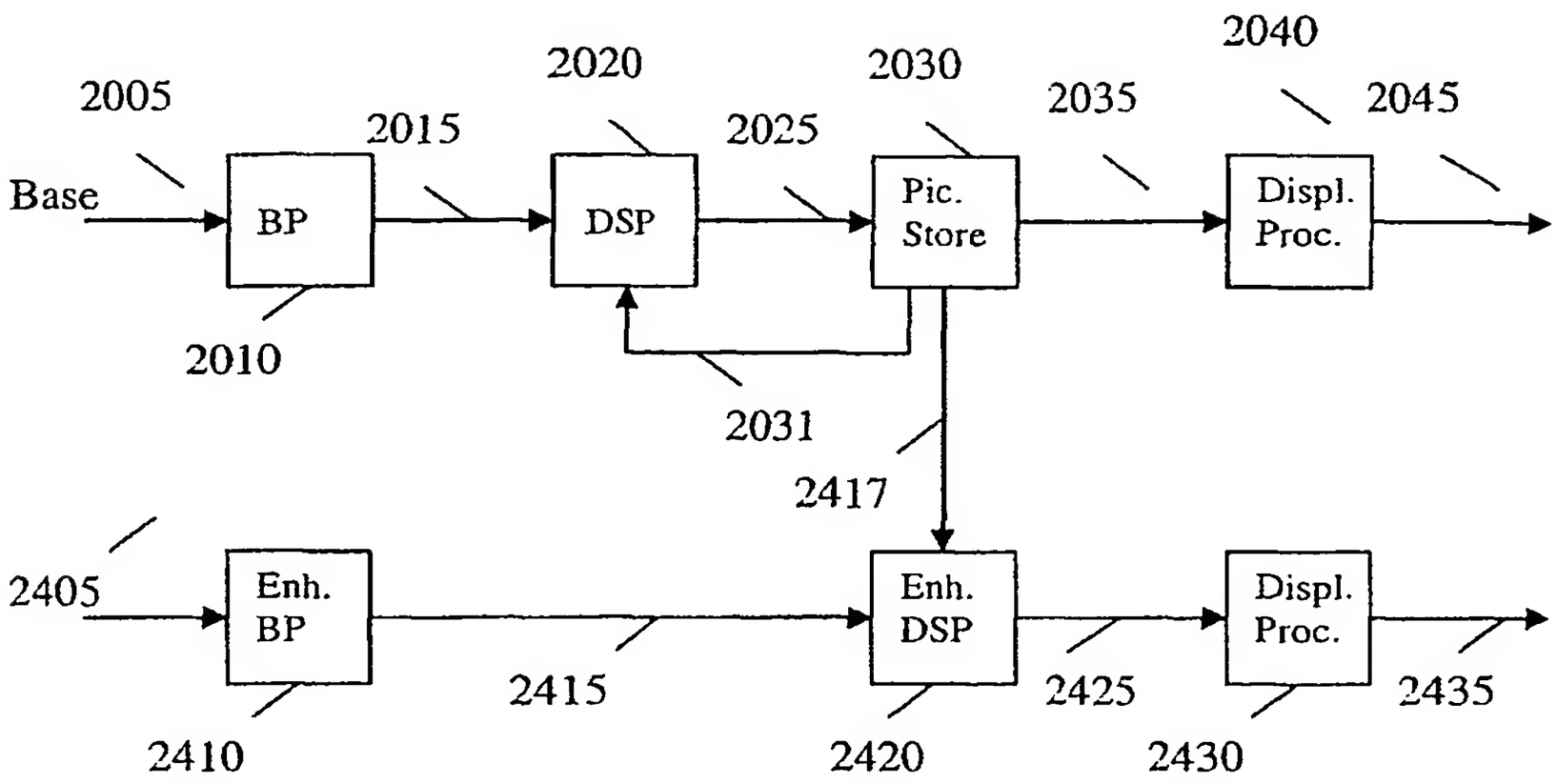


Figure 2e – layering by frame (temporal scalability)

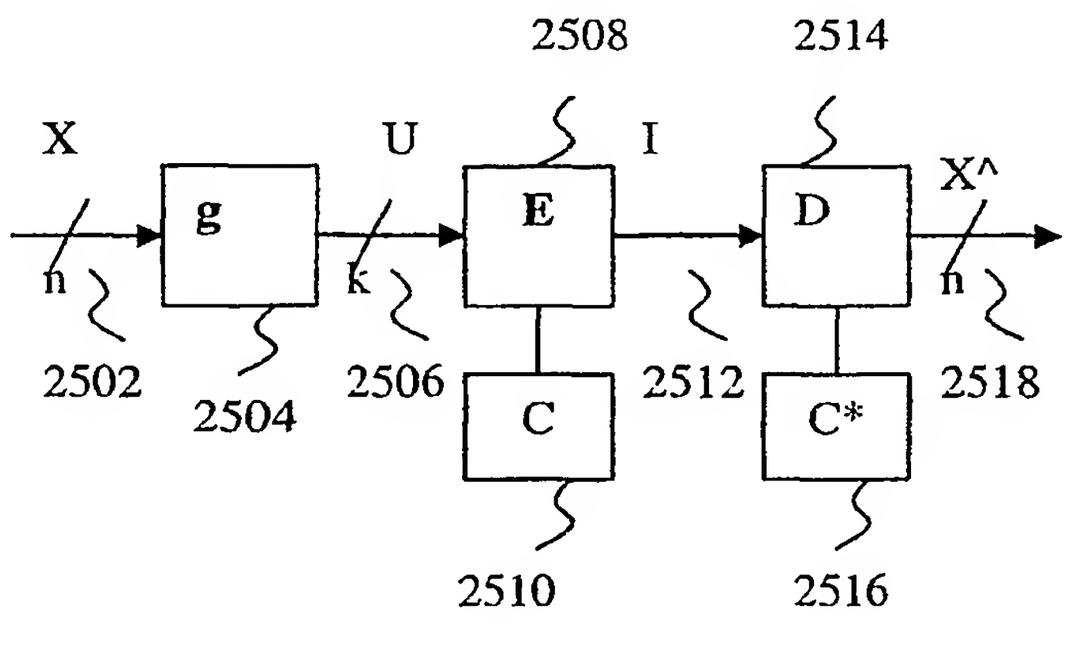


Figure 2f Gersho NLIVQ '90 (Fig.2)

(X is the raw input video upon which C is generated.*
Here g = mapping of some kind.
The encoder (E) is a transform + quantization of the feature vector U.
I is a VQ index into C of dimension k.*
C is a codebook containing estimated signal codevectors X^.*
D = interpolative decoder]

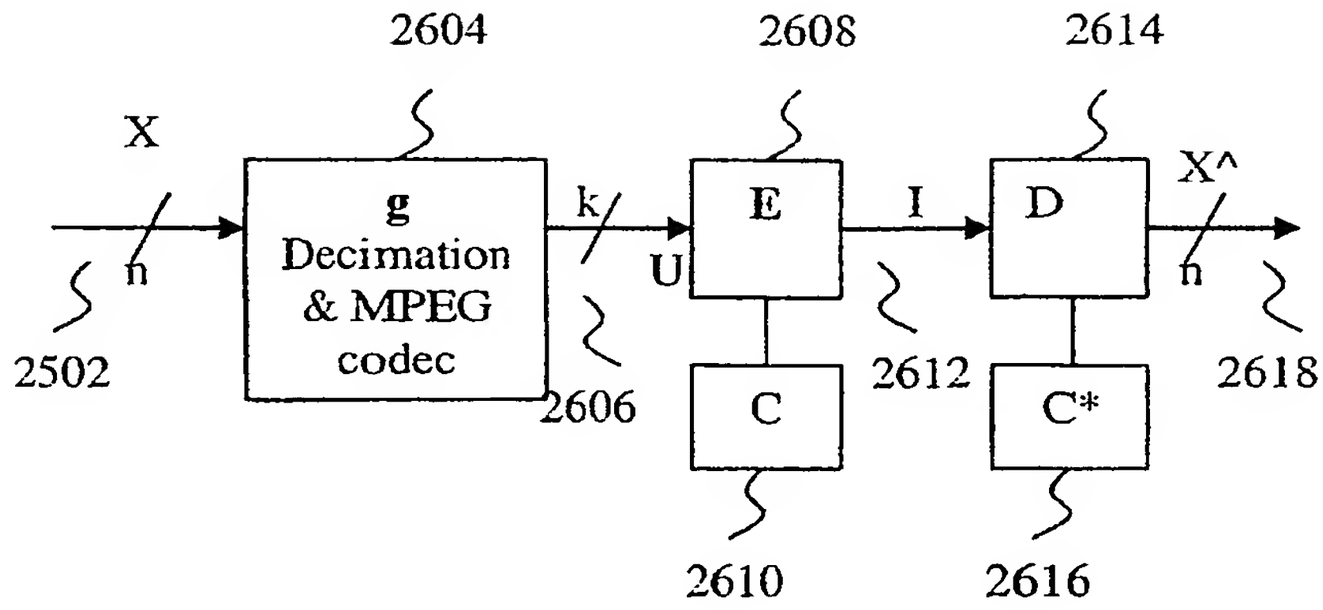


Figure 2g Gersho NLIVQ '90 adopted to interpolation of MPEG coded video

g = downsampling + quantization via MPEG.

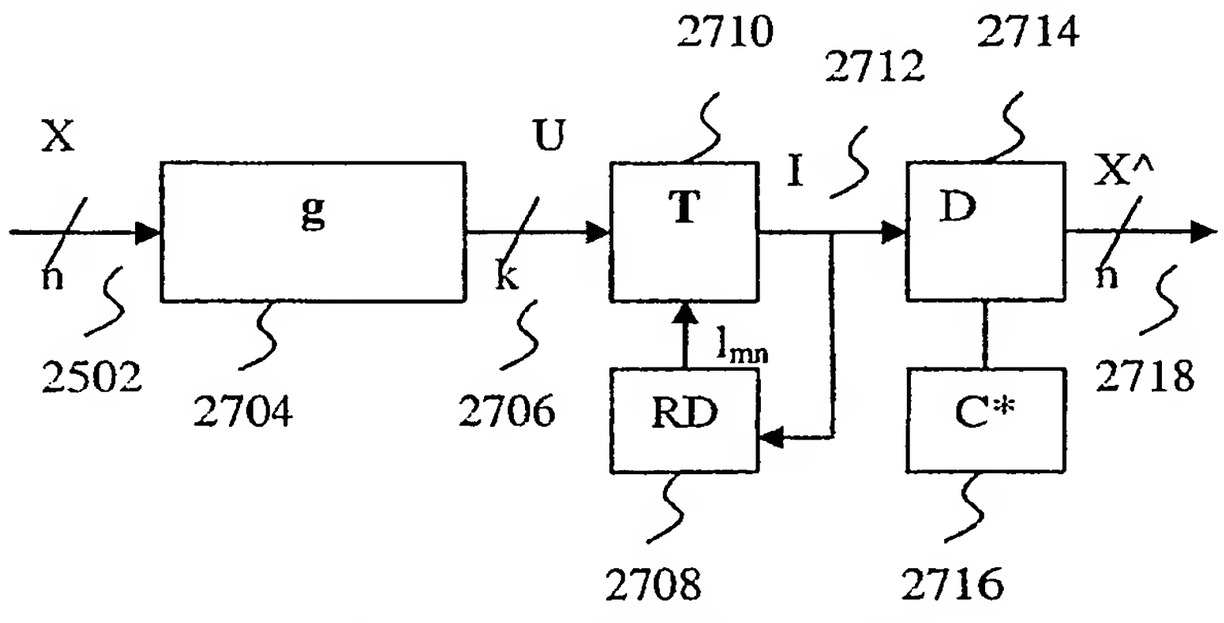


Figure 2h Sheppard NLIVQ '96

T = encoder: DCT transform + quantization.
RD = quantizer design

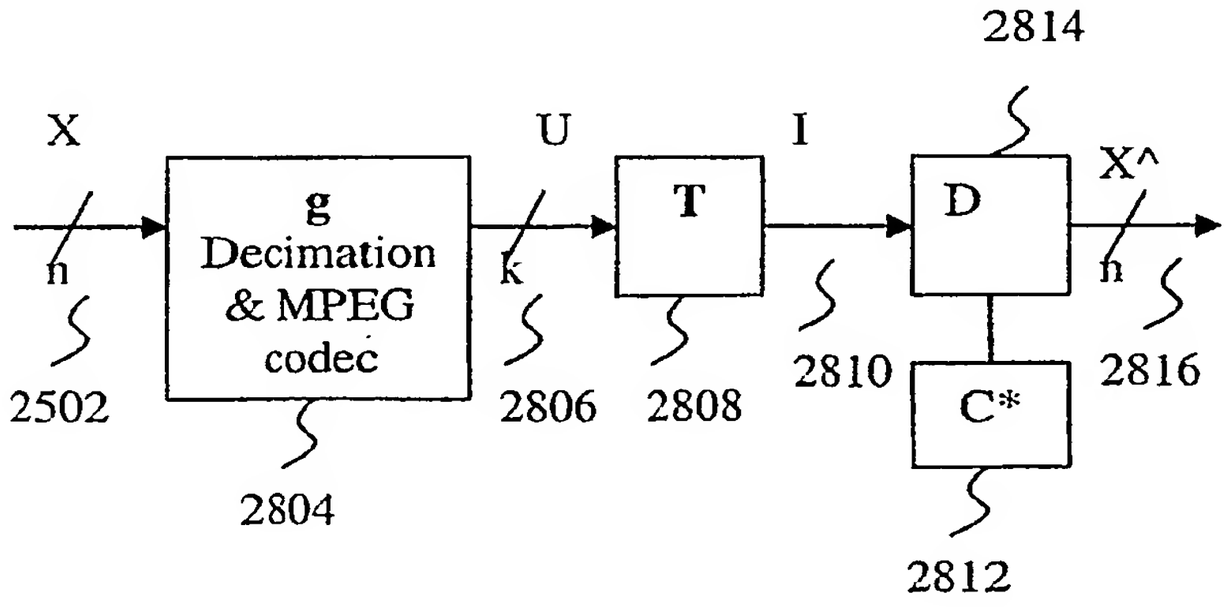


Figure 2i Sheppard NLIVQ '96 adopted to interpolation of MPEG coded video

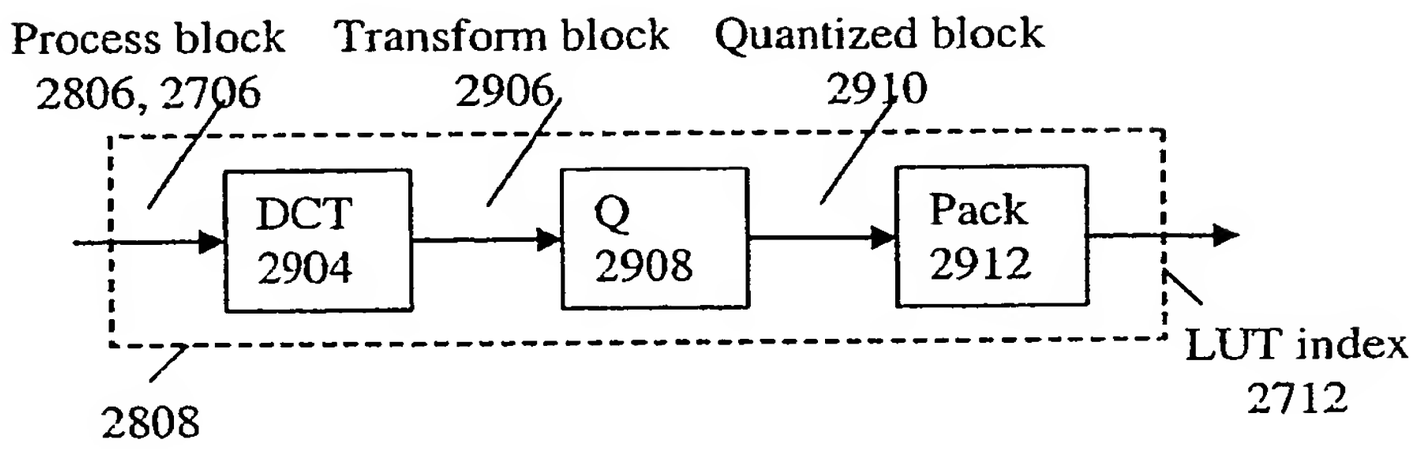


Figure 2i -- Index generation steps, Sheppard et al '96

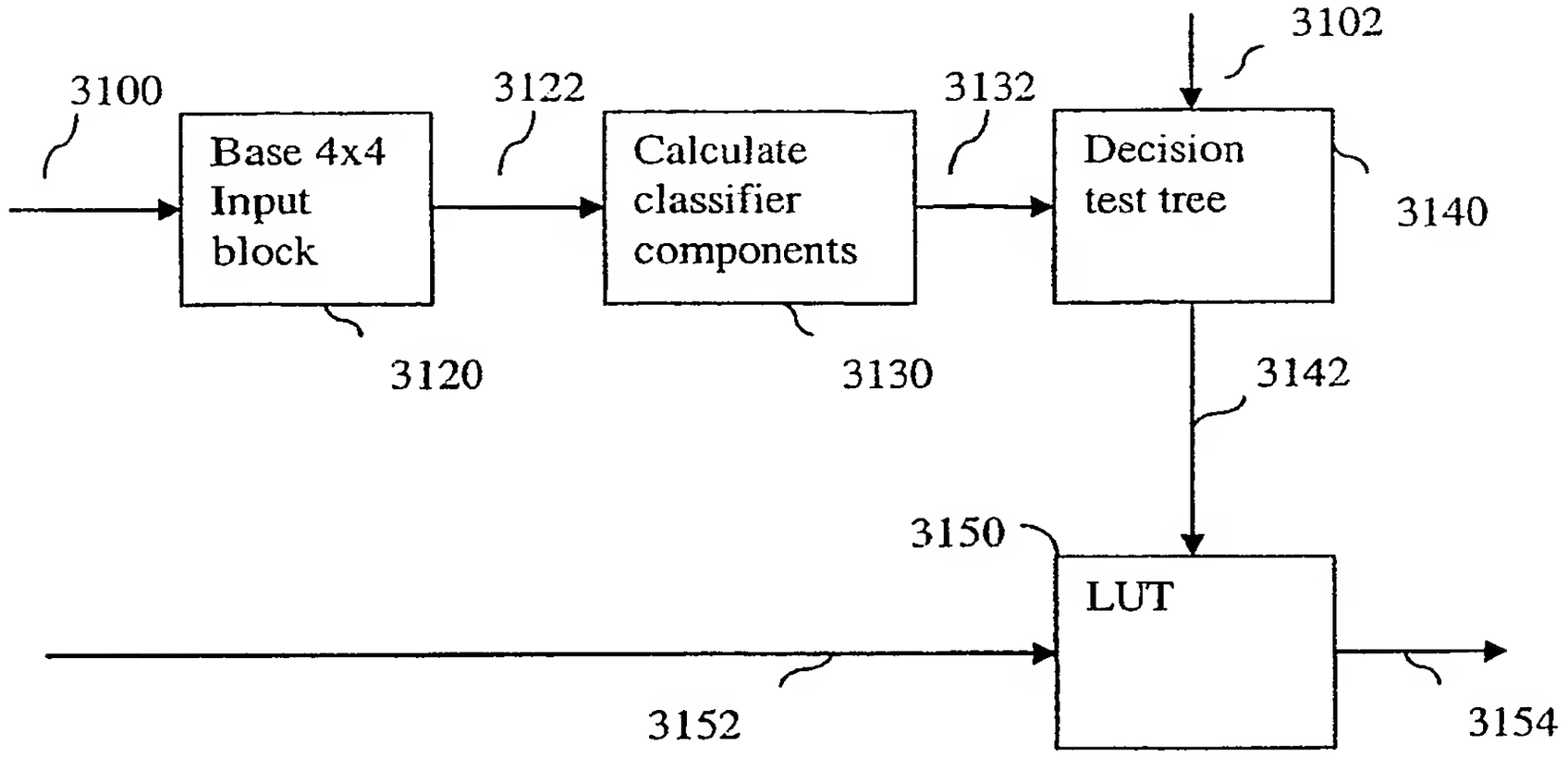


Fig. 3b

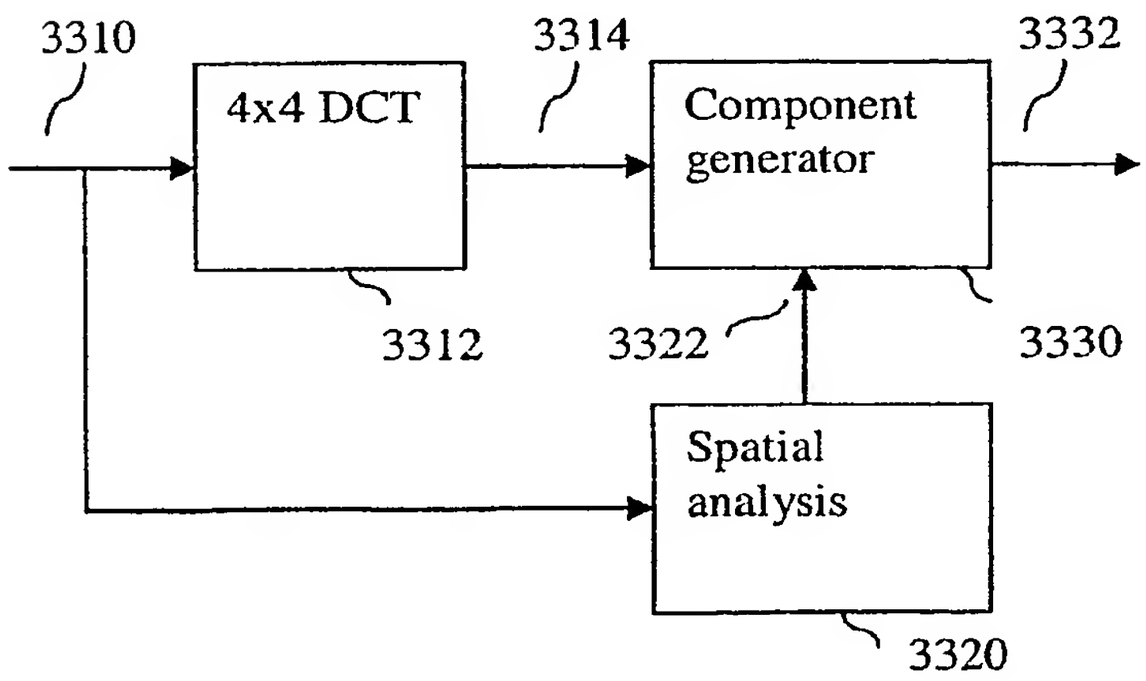
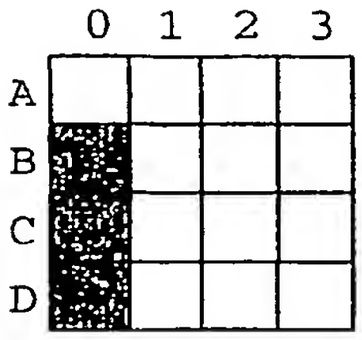
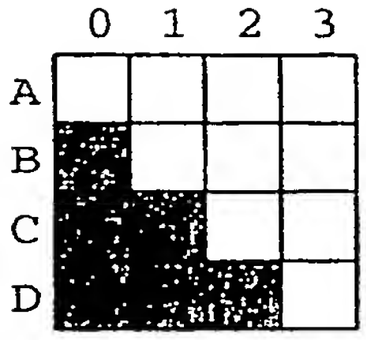


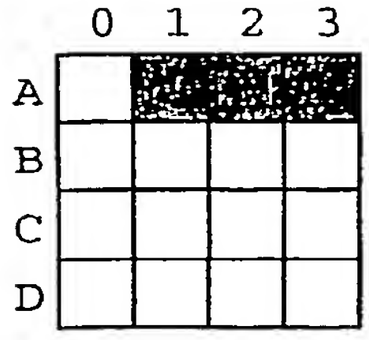
Figure 3d Calculate classifier components



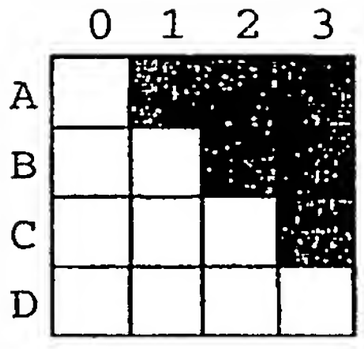
Inf1



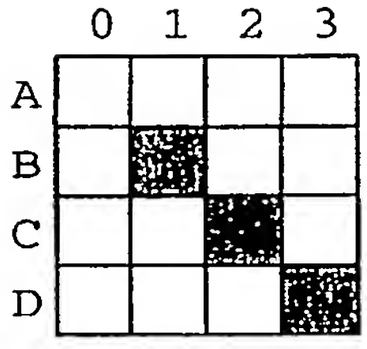
Inf0



Sup1



Sup0



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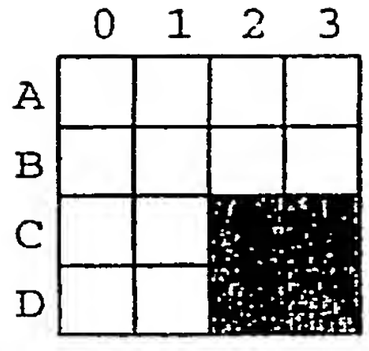
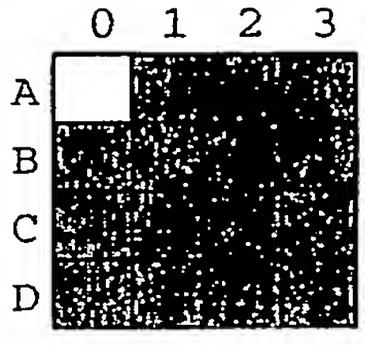


text



tot

Figure 3e

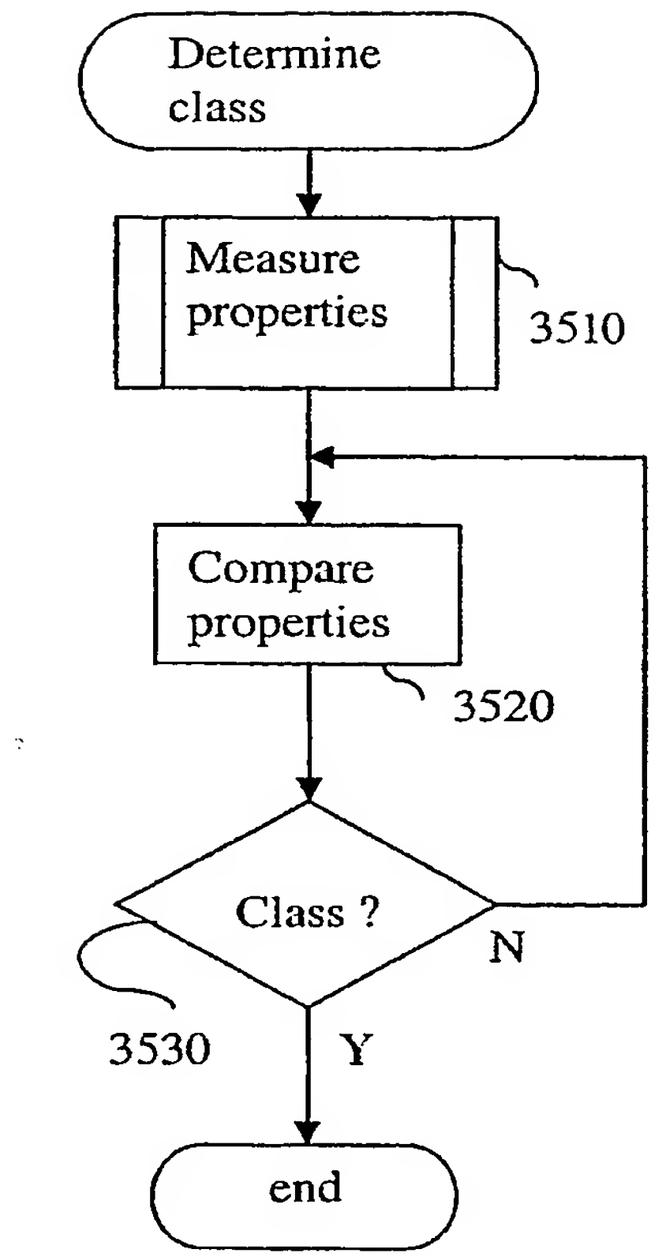


Figure 3f

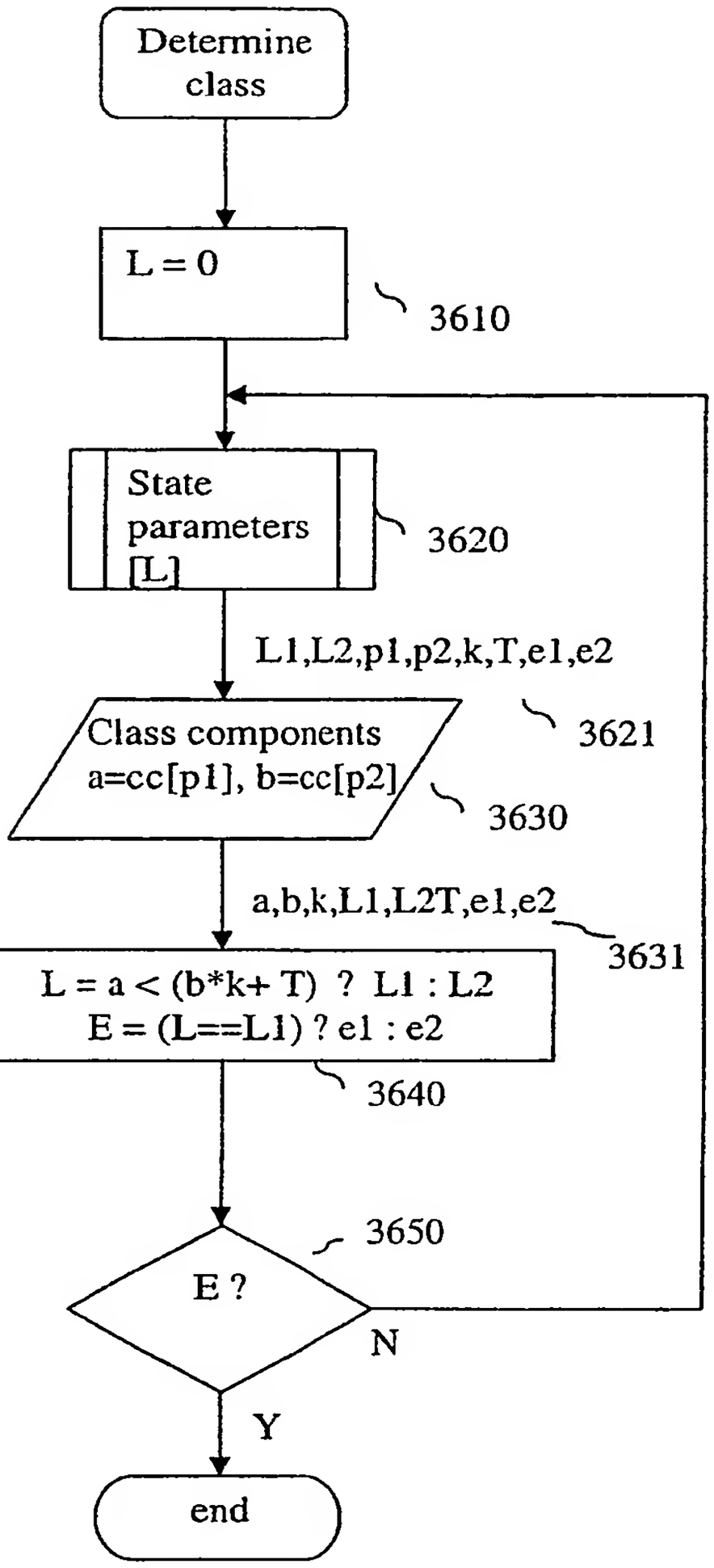


Figure 3g

Address, output,
Table entries: L1, L2, e1, e2, k, T

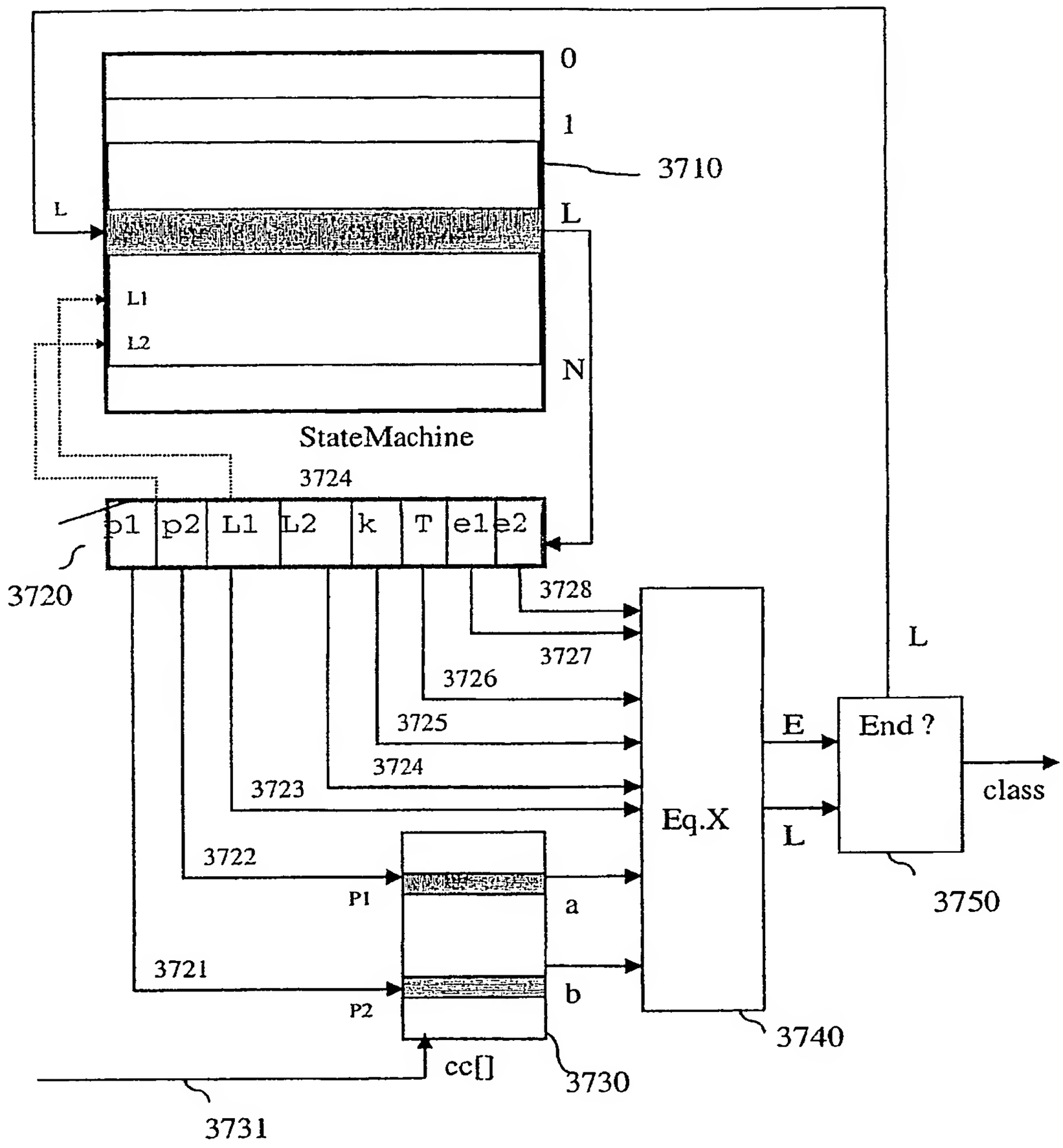


Figure 3h State machine

Fig. 4, decoder

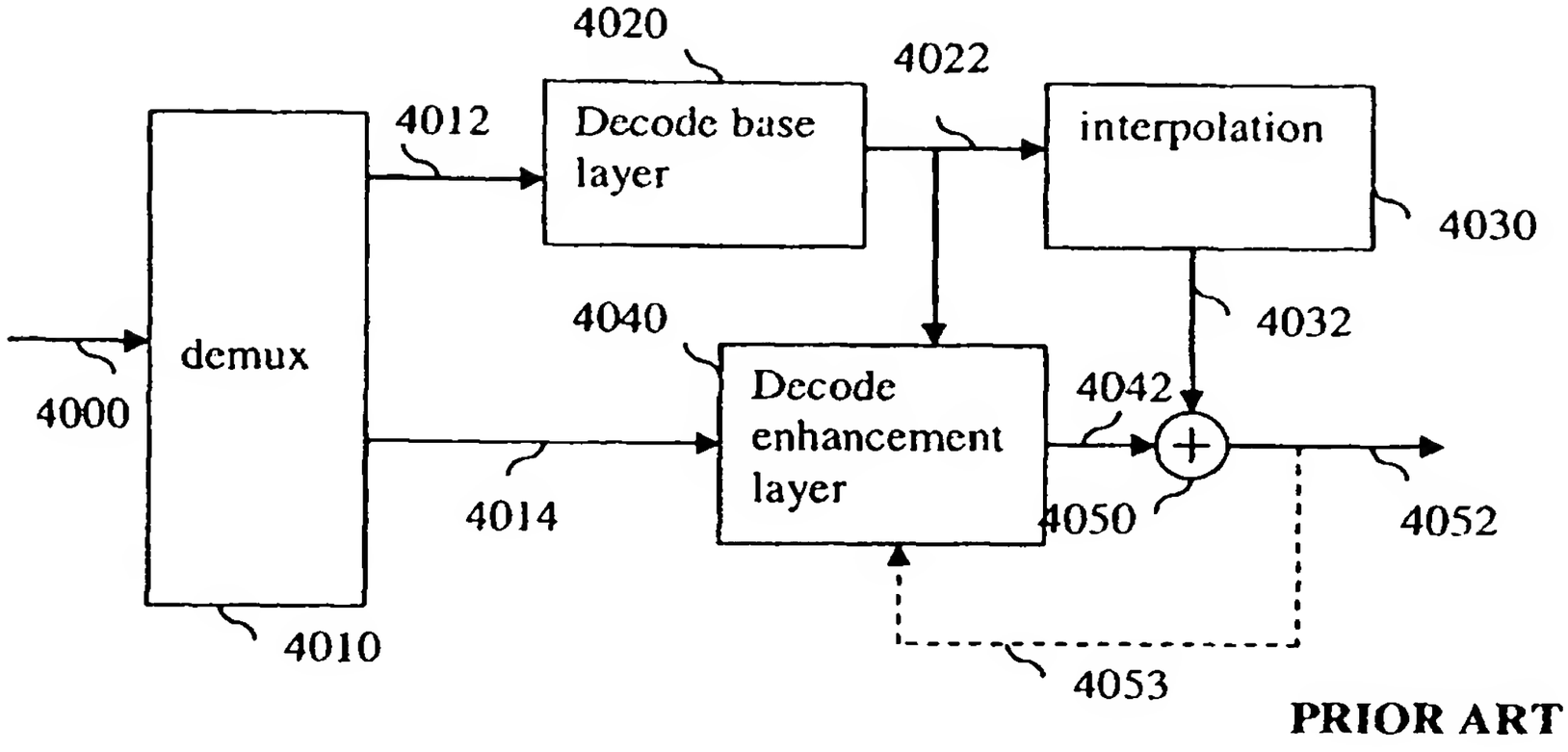


Fig. 4a

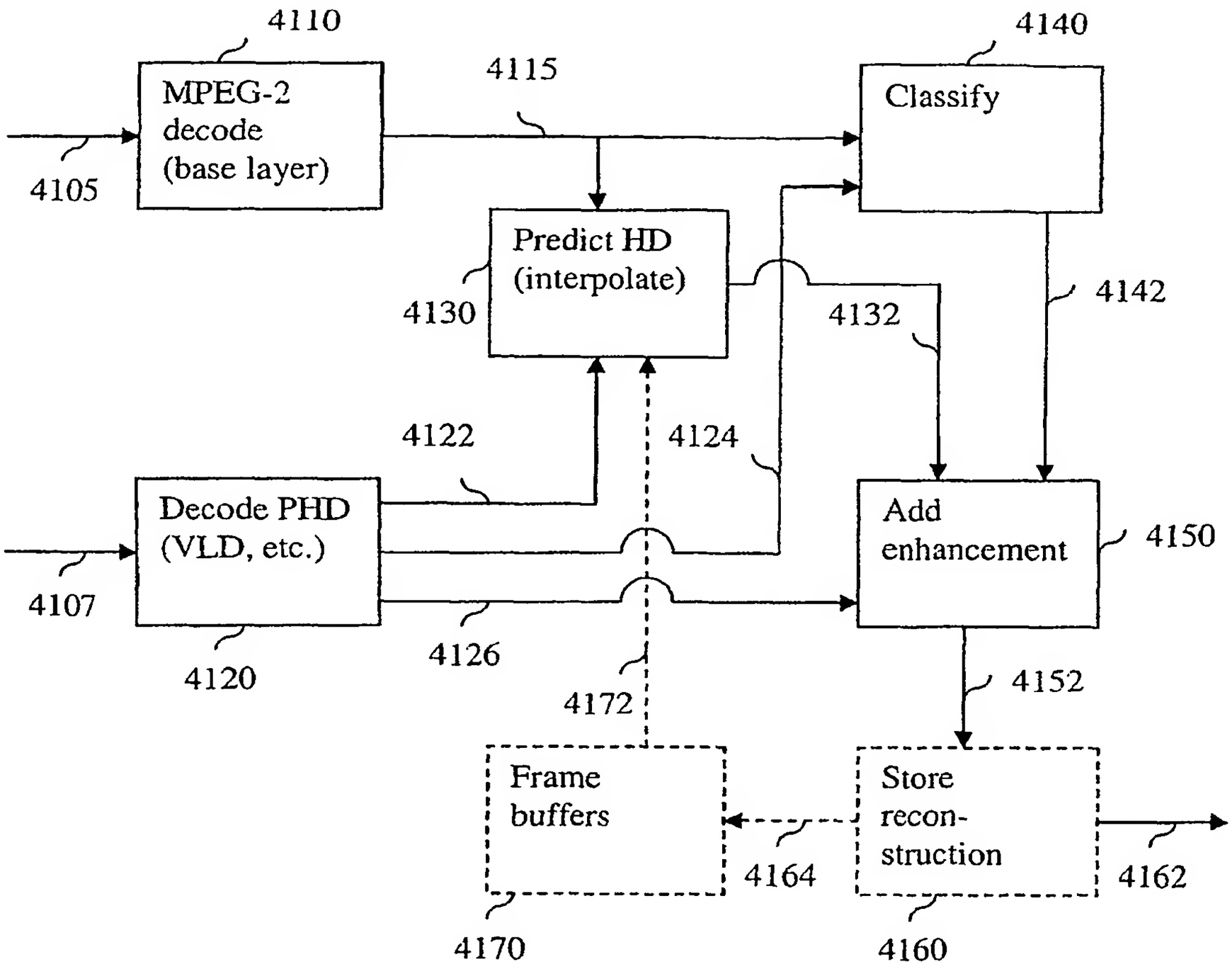
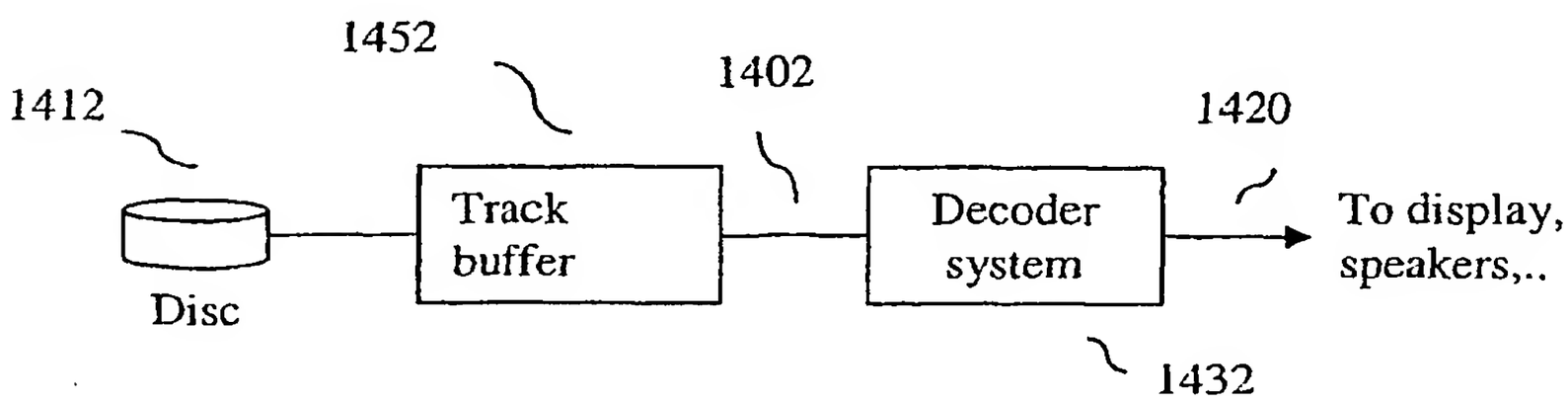
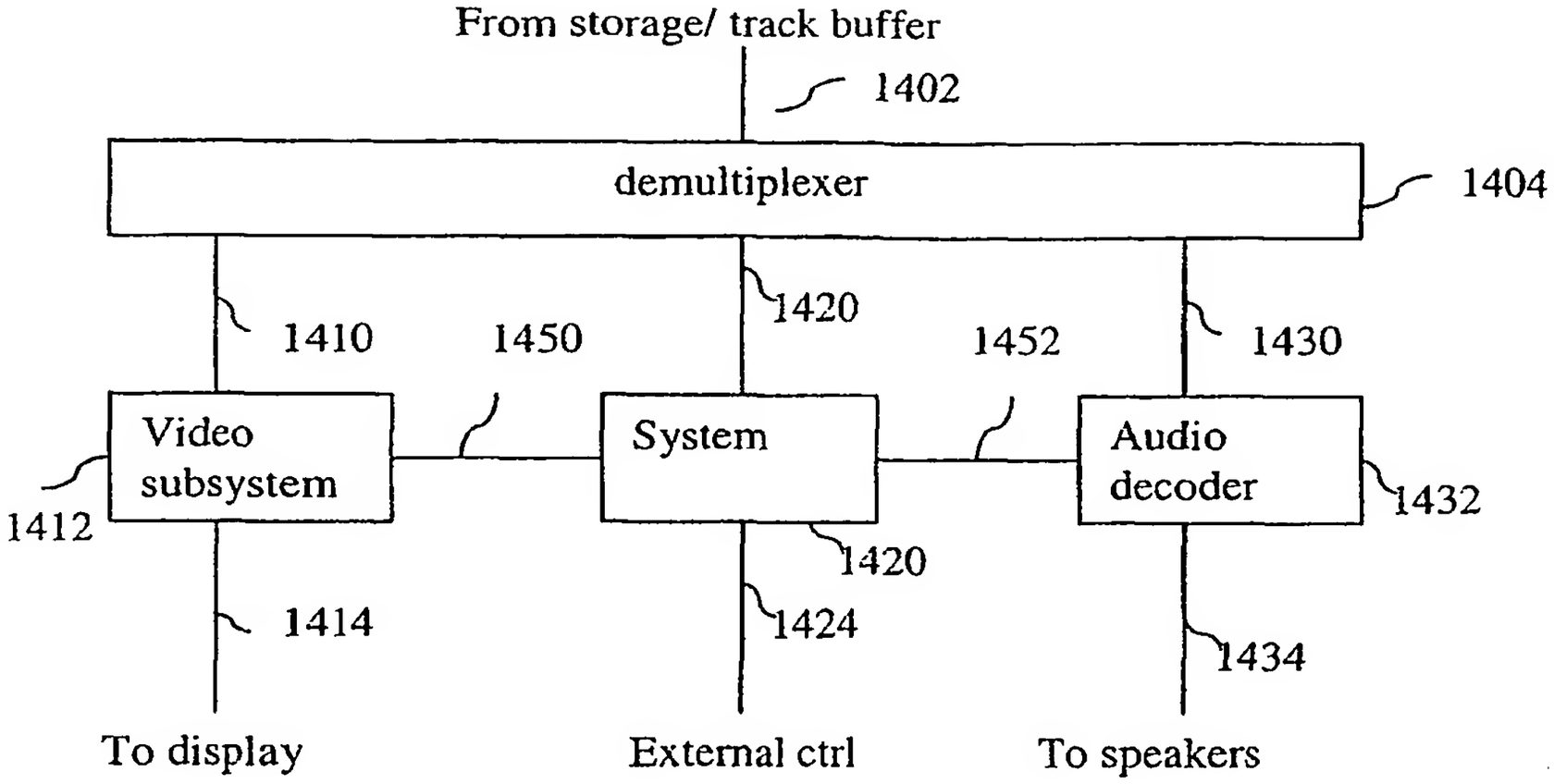


Figure 4b



PRIOR ART

Figure 4c



PRIOR ART

Figure 4d

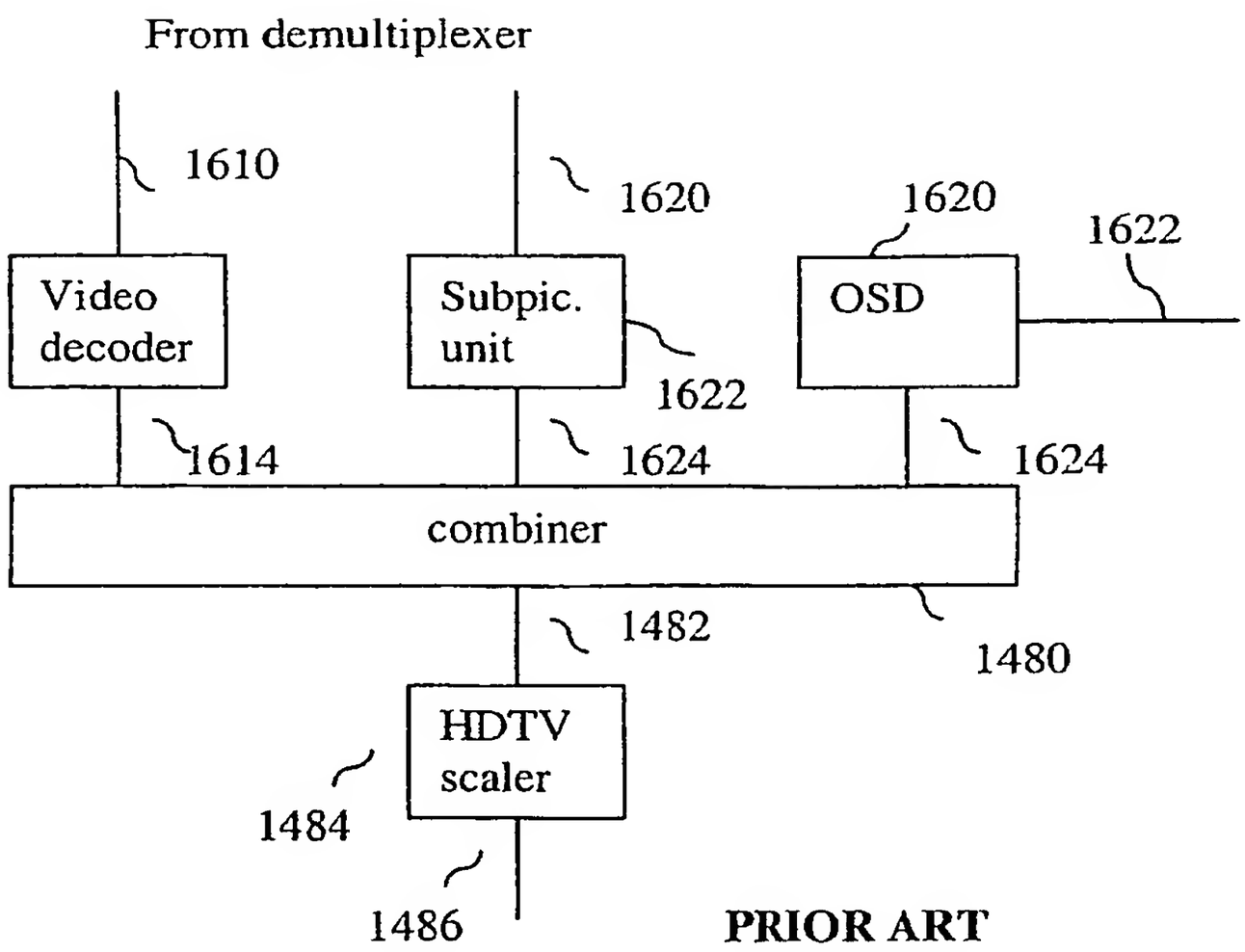


Figure 4e

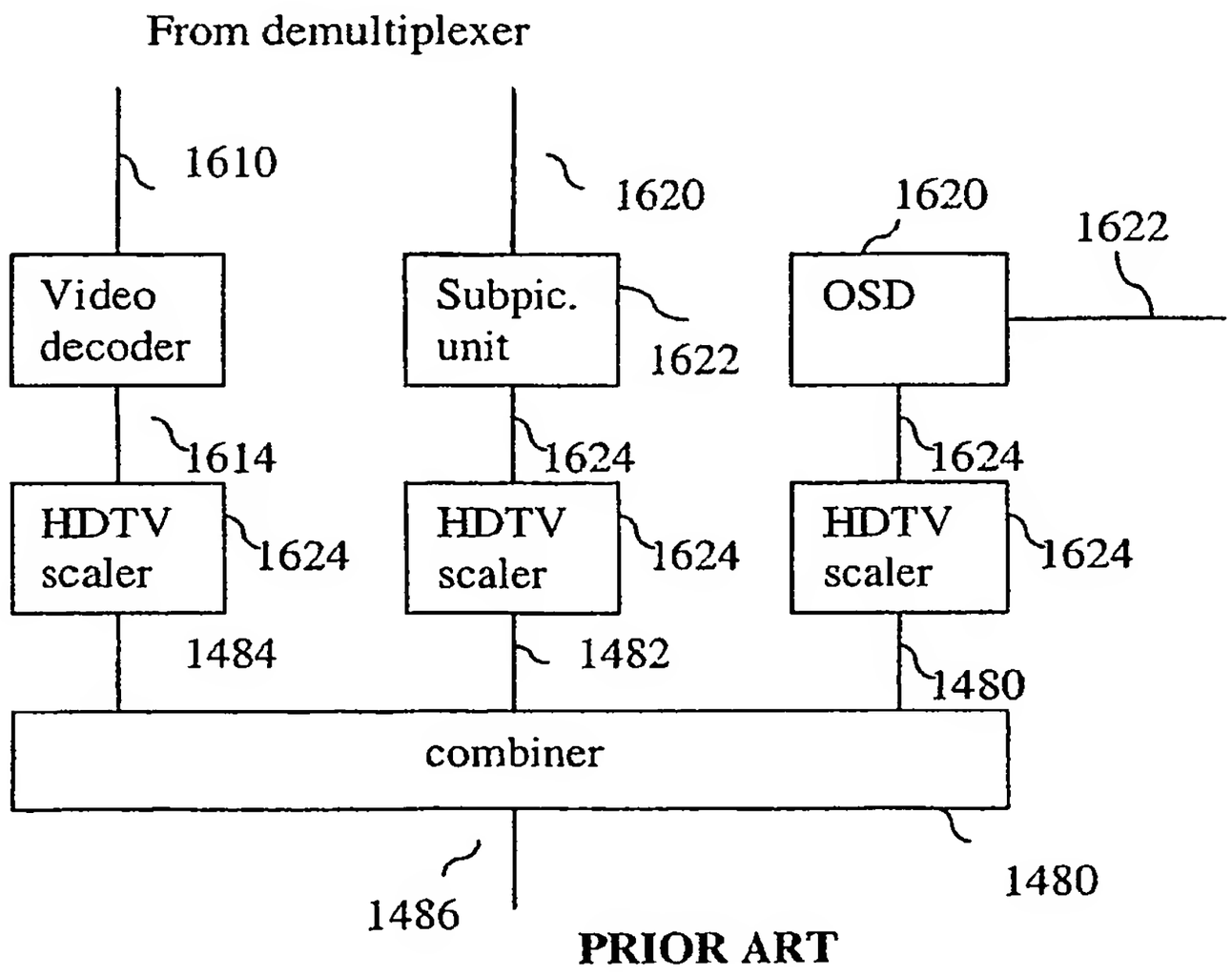


Figure 1e

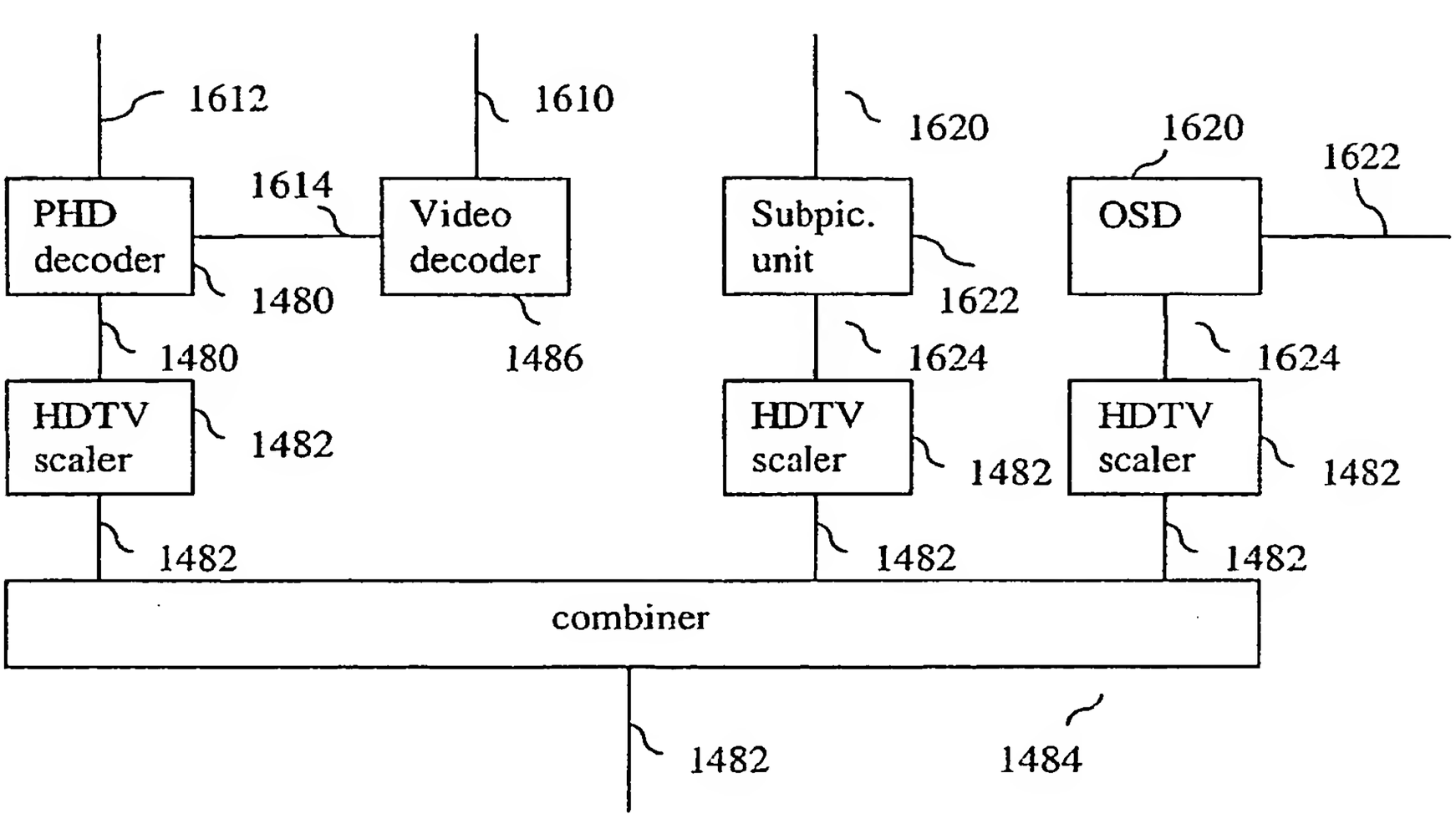


Figure 4f

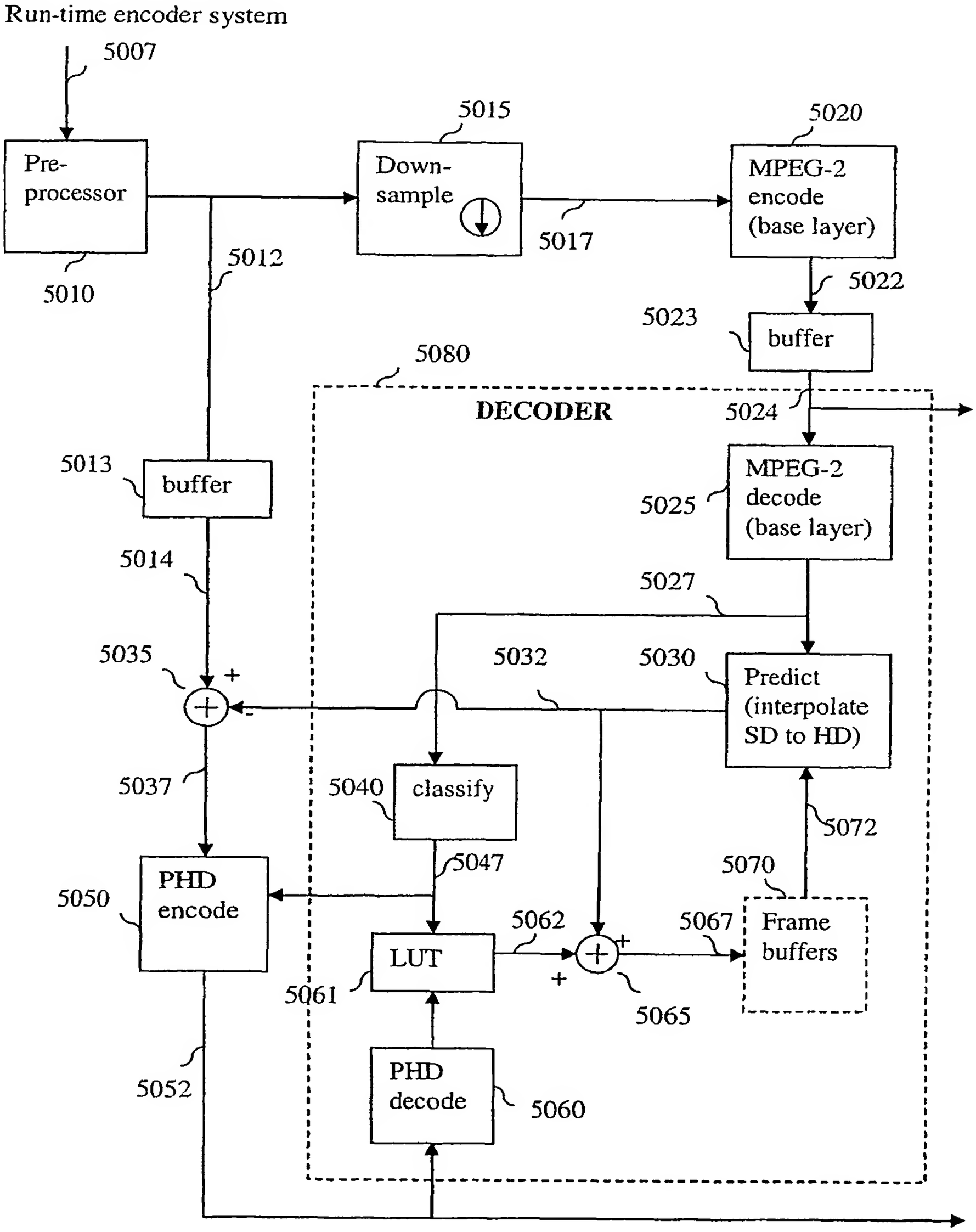


Figure 5a

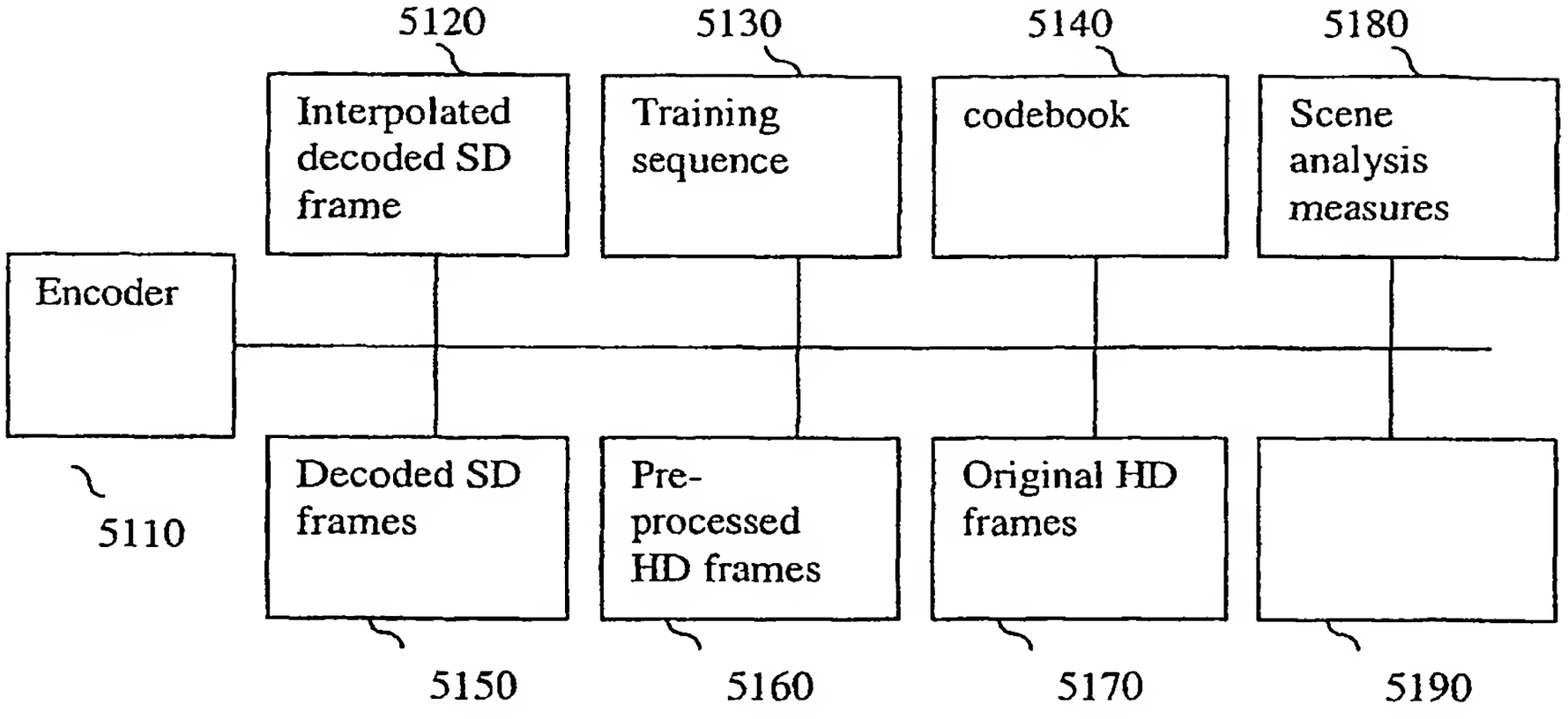


Figure 5b

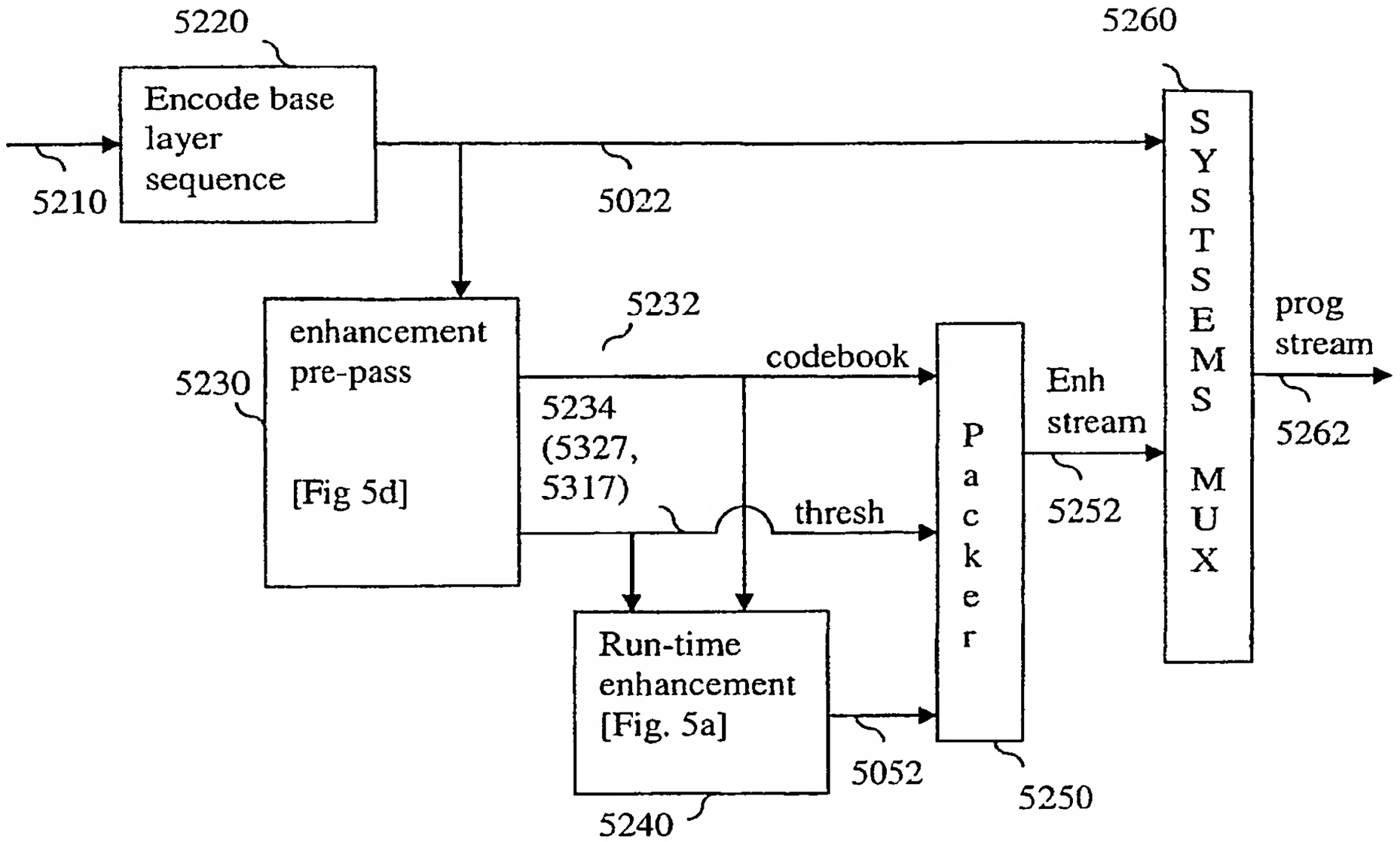


Figure 5c PHD encode steps

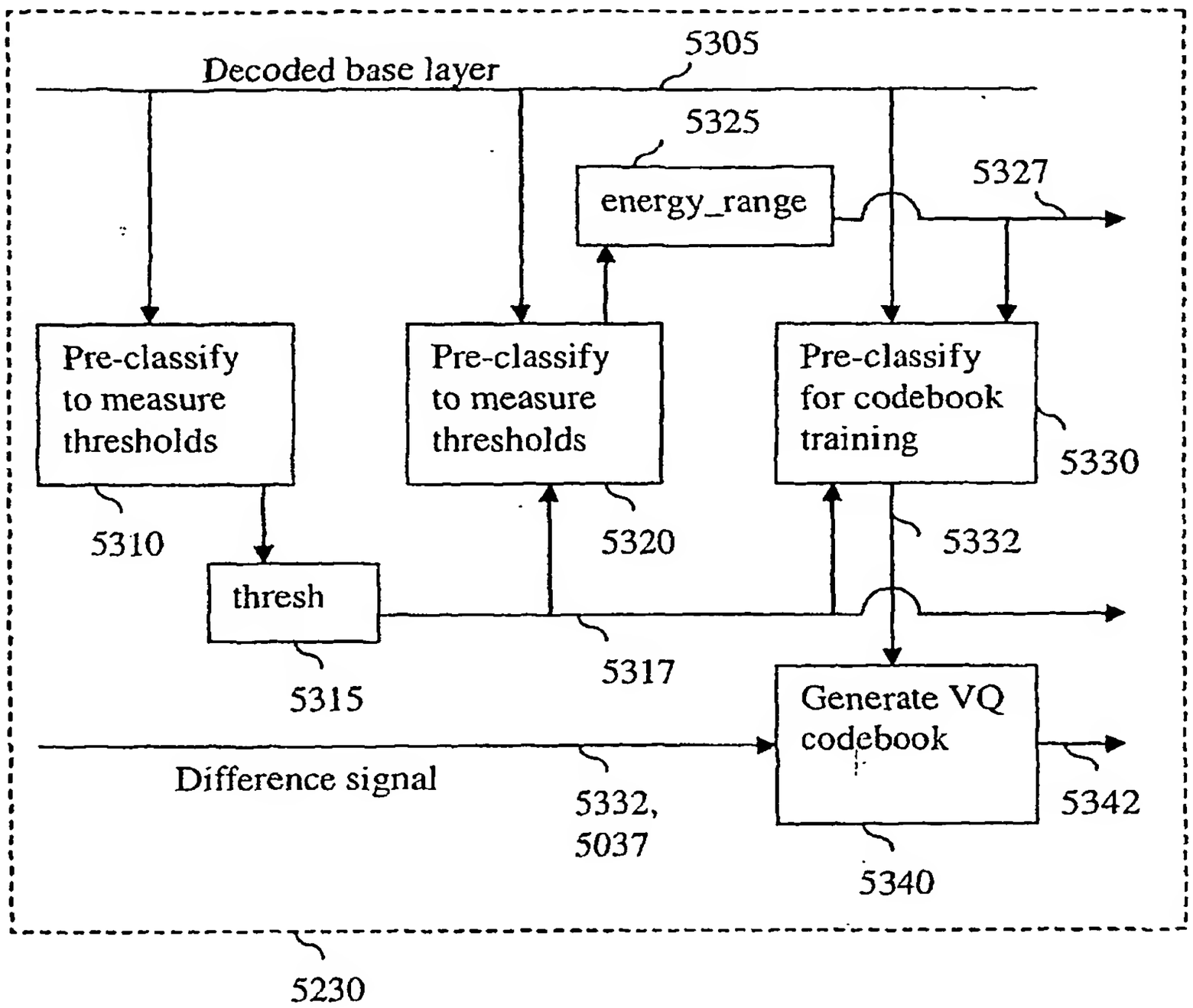


Figure 5d PHD pre-pass operations

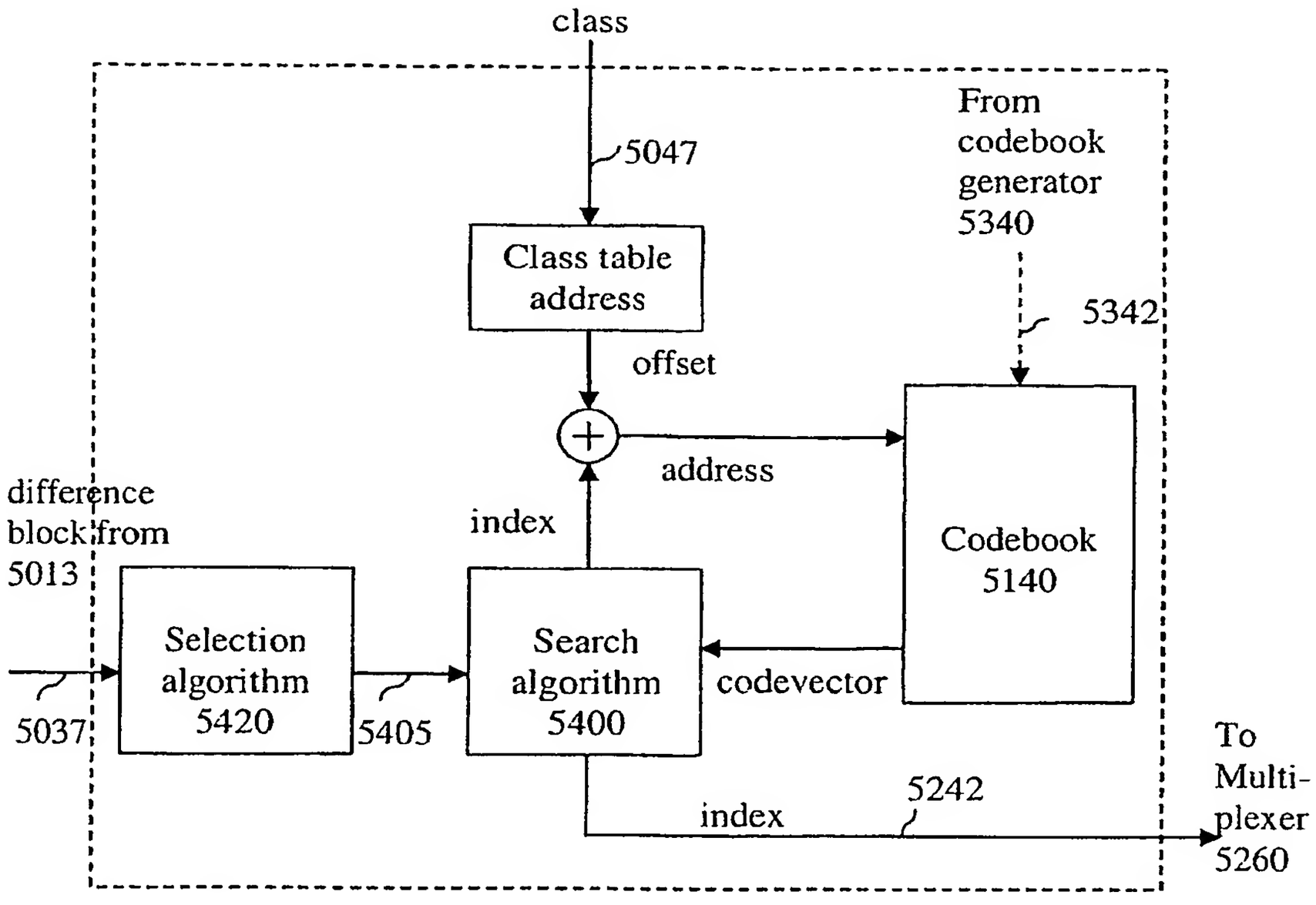


Figure 5e

Authoring figures

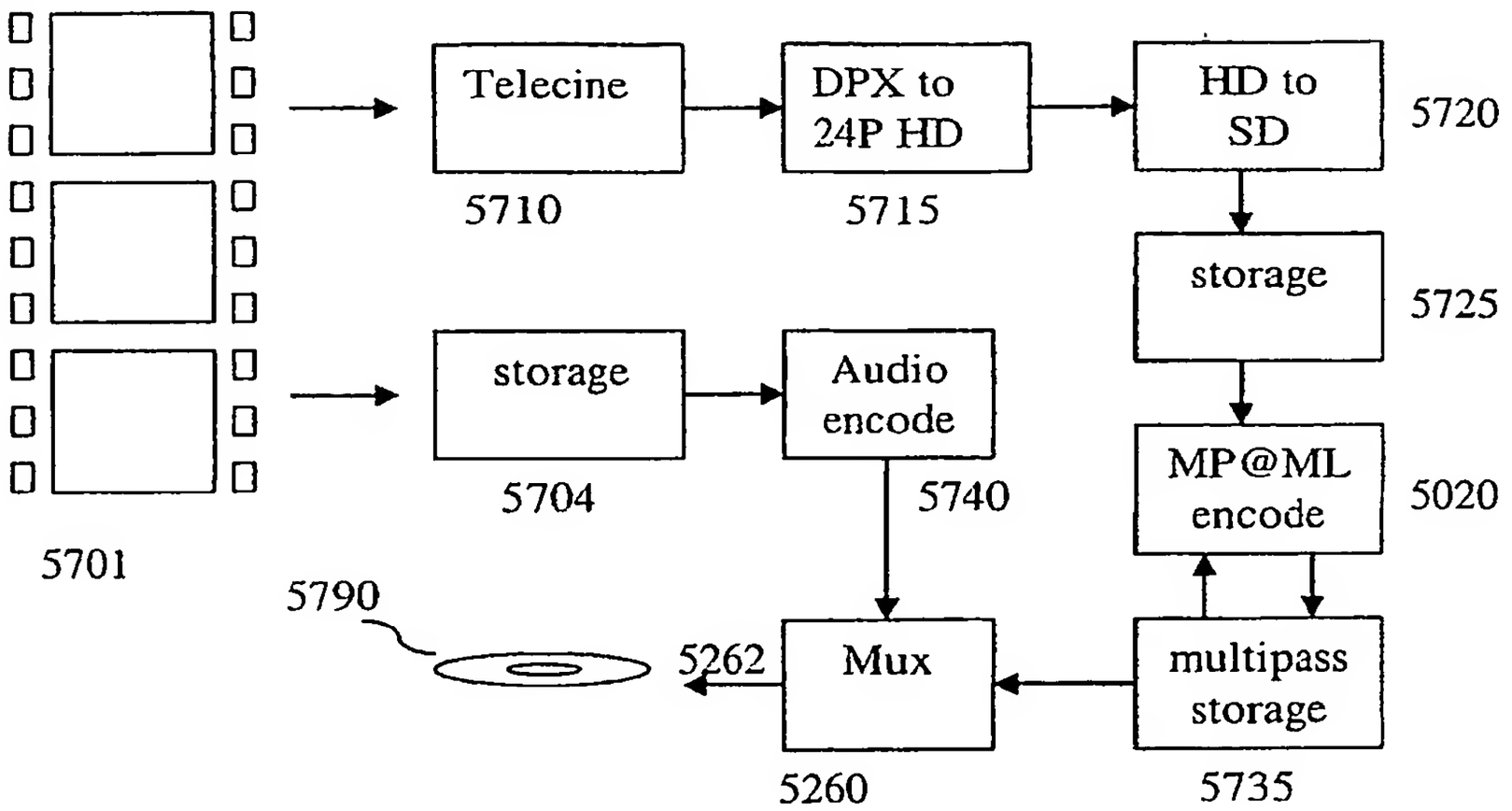


Figure 5h Prior art DVD authoring

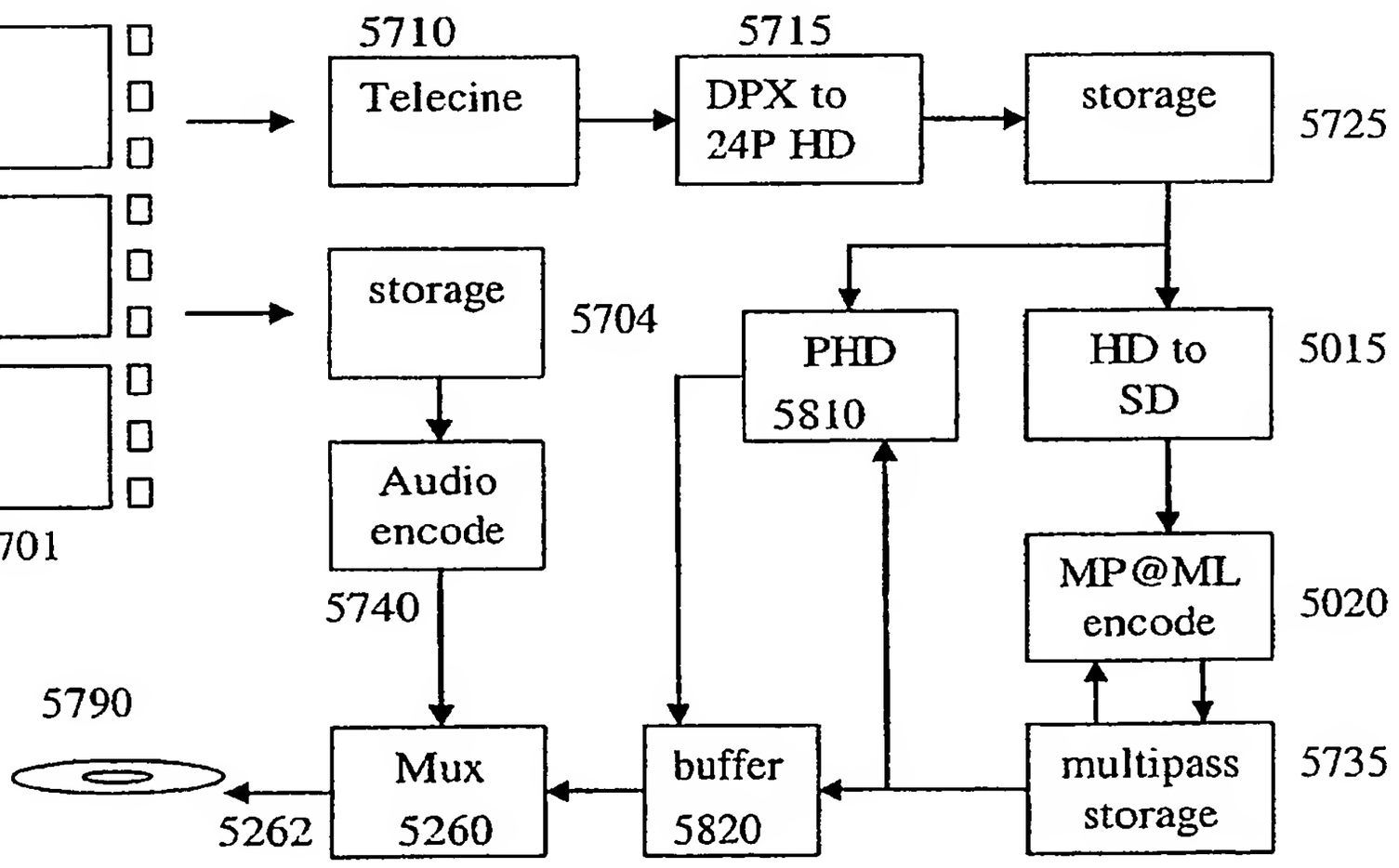


Fig.5i: storage prior to multiplexing disc record.

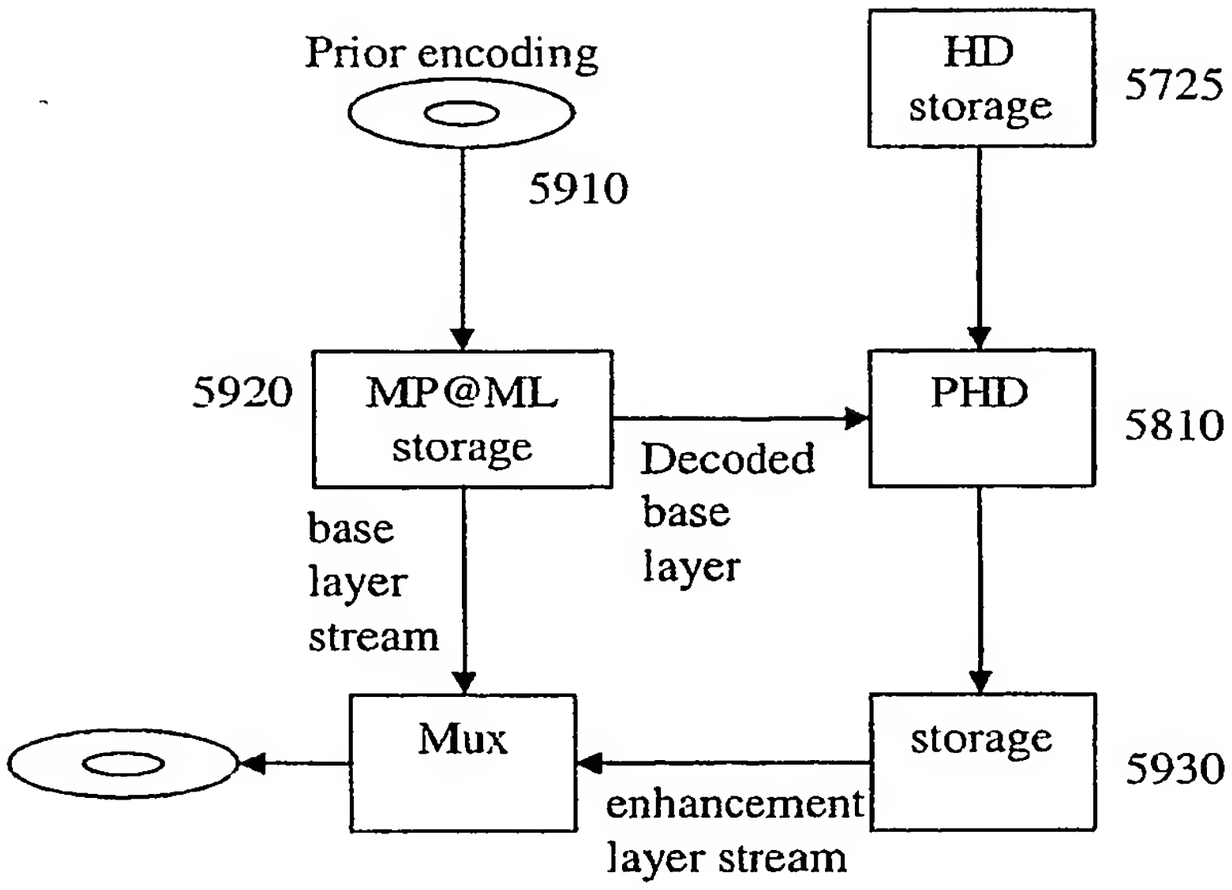


Fig.5j: post authoring.

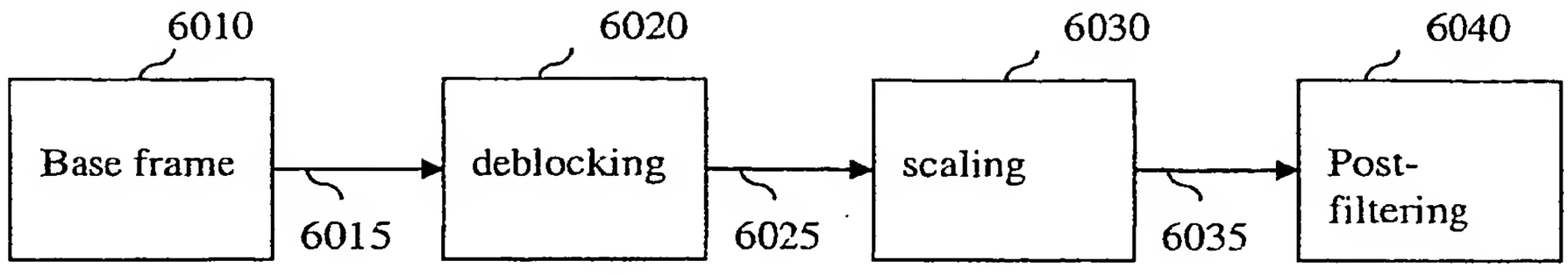


Figure 6a

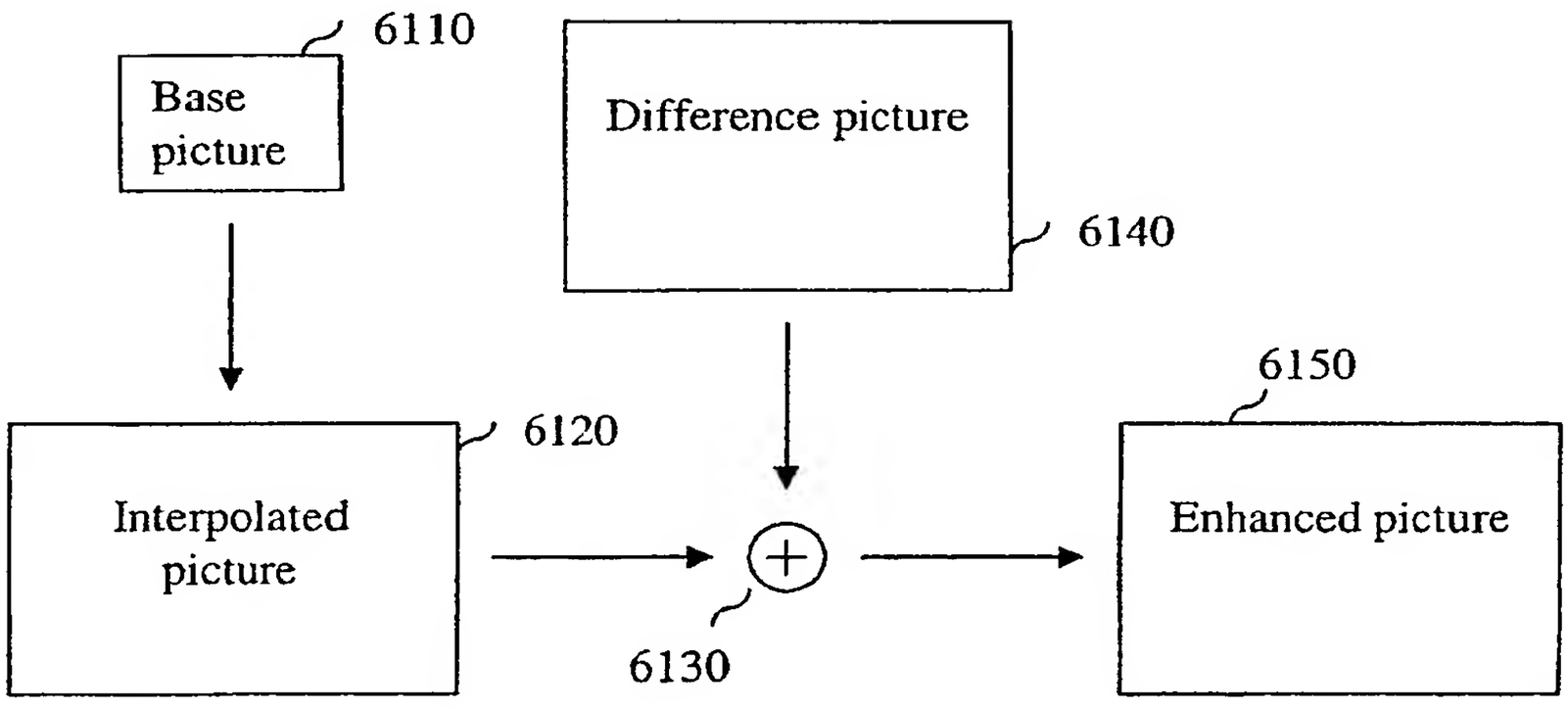


Figure 6b

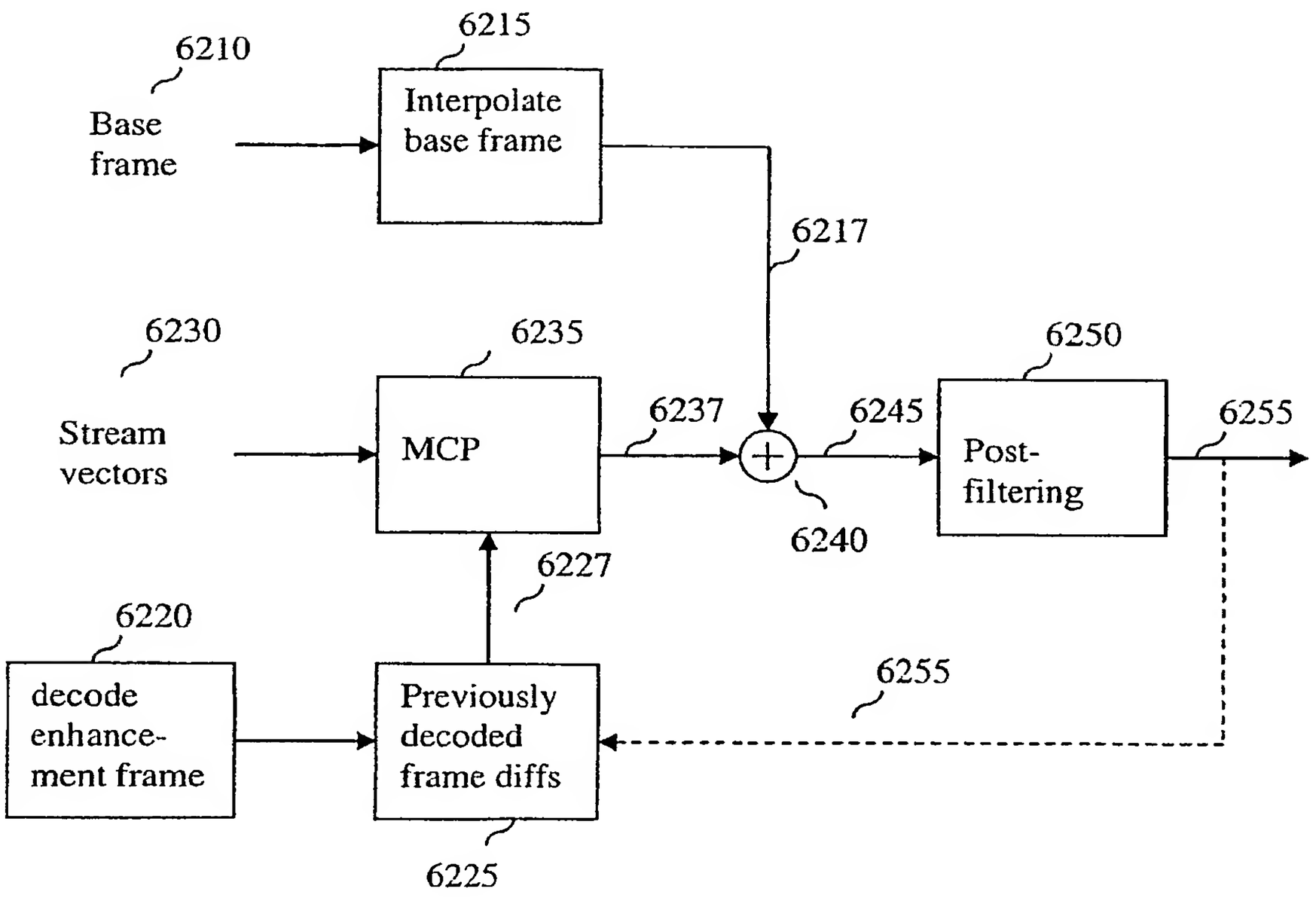


Figure 6c

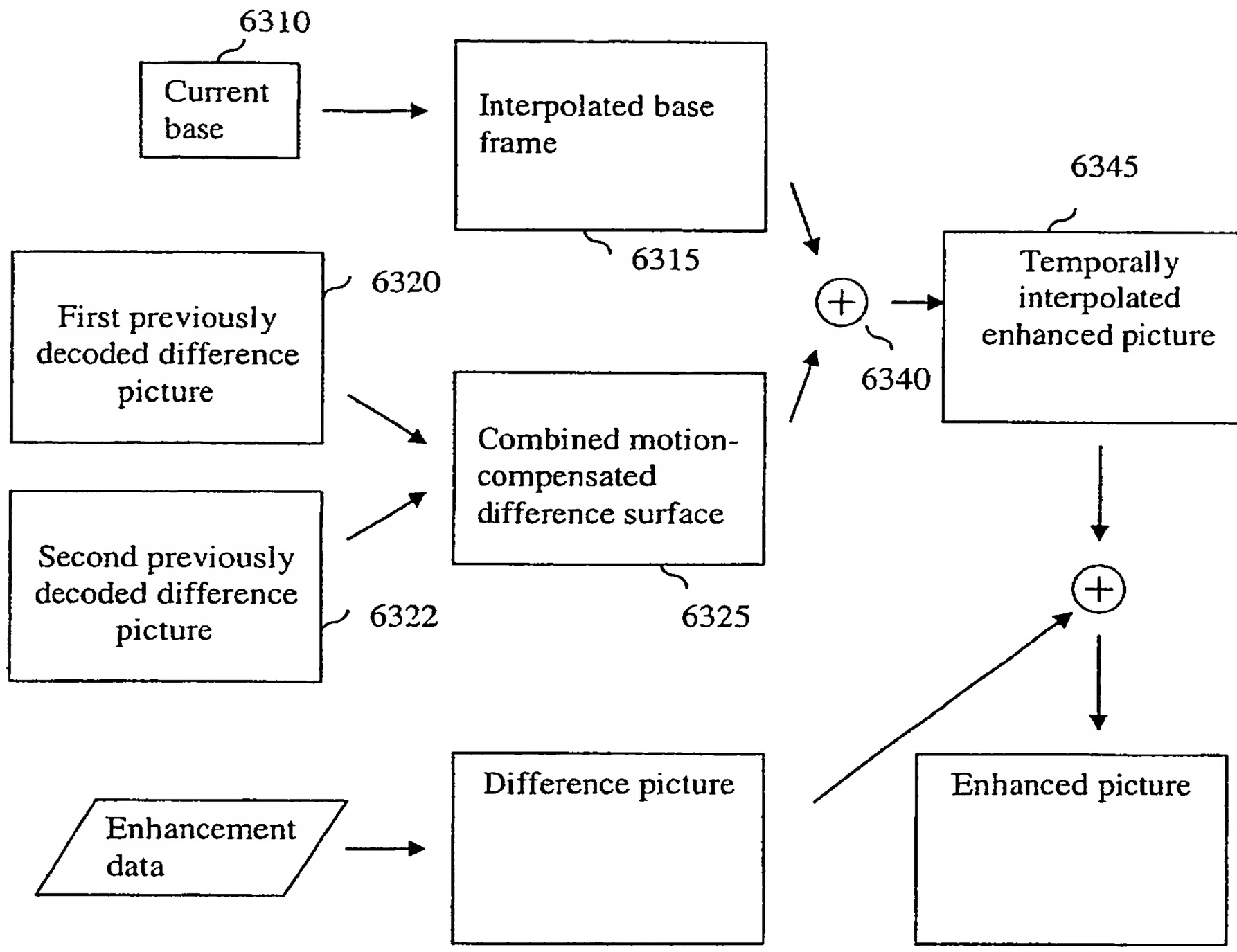


Figure 6d

Fig. 7, syntax and semantic definitions of data elements

Syntax fragments

```
scene()
{
  scene_code                          32
  scene_number                        24
  n_cbks                               6
  previous_scene_dependencies          1
  reserved                             1

  for(i=0;i<n_cbks;i++)
    codebook();

  while( !end_of_scene_code )
  {
    enhancent_picture();
  }

  end_of_scene_code                   32
}

codebook()
{
  codebook_code                       32
  codebook_number                      8
  n_bytes_codebook                    24
  n_classes                            8

  energy_range();                      ?
  thresholds();                        ?

  for(i=0;i<n_classes;i++)
    download_codebook()
}

download_codebook()
{
  cbk_n                                8
  class_n                              8
  n_vectors                           16

  for(i=0;i<n_vectors;i++)
    cbk[cbk_n][class_n][i] = vector;
```

```
    stuffing_bits                                   1-7
  }

  enhancement_picture()
  {
    picture_number                                   8
    n_cbk_ud                                         8
    is_picture_enhanced                              1

    for(i=0;i<n_cbk_ud;i++)
      update_codebook();

    if(  is_picture_enhanced )
      for(;;)
        strip()
  }

  update_codebook()
  {
    ud_cbk_n
    ud_class_n
    ud_offset
    n_ud_vec

    for(i=0;i<n_ud_vec;i++)
      cbk[ud_cbk_n][ud_class_n][ud_offset+i] = update_vector;

    stuffing_bits                                    1-7
  }

  vector()
  {
    for(i=0;i<64;i++)
      element[i]                                     8
  }

  update_vector()
  {
    for(i=0;i<64;i++)
      element[i] += diff_element[i]                  VLC
  }
```

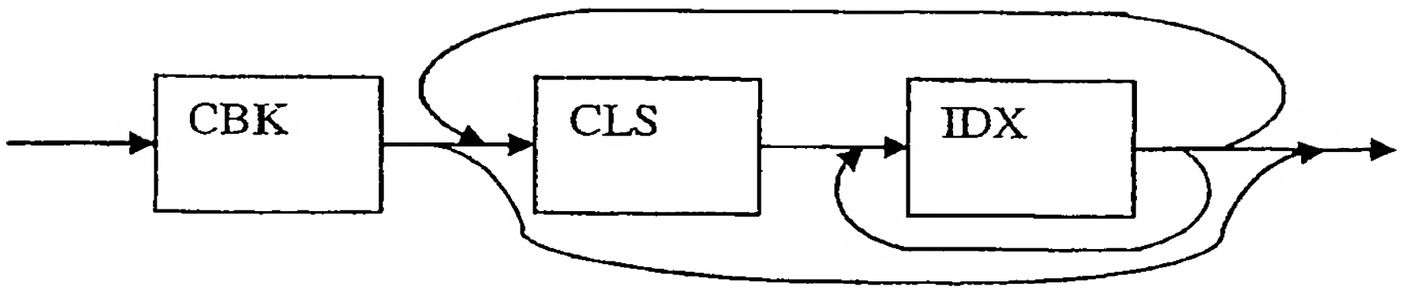


Figure 7a strip diagram

```
strip()
{
  strip_counter                 3
  is_strip_enhanced             1
  y_location                    8
  x_location                    8
  codebook_number               8
  n_blocks                     16
  class_checksum               32
  reserved                      8

  if( is_strip_enhanced )
    for(i=0;i<n_blocks;i++)
      enhancement_block[y_location][x_location][i] = index;
}
```

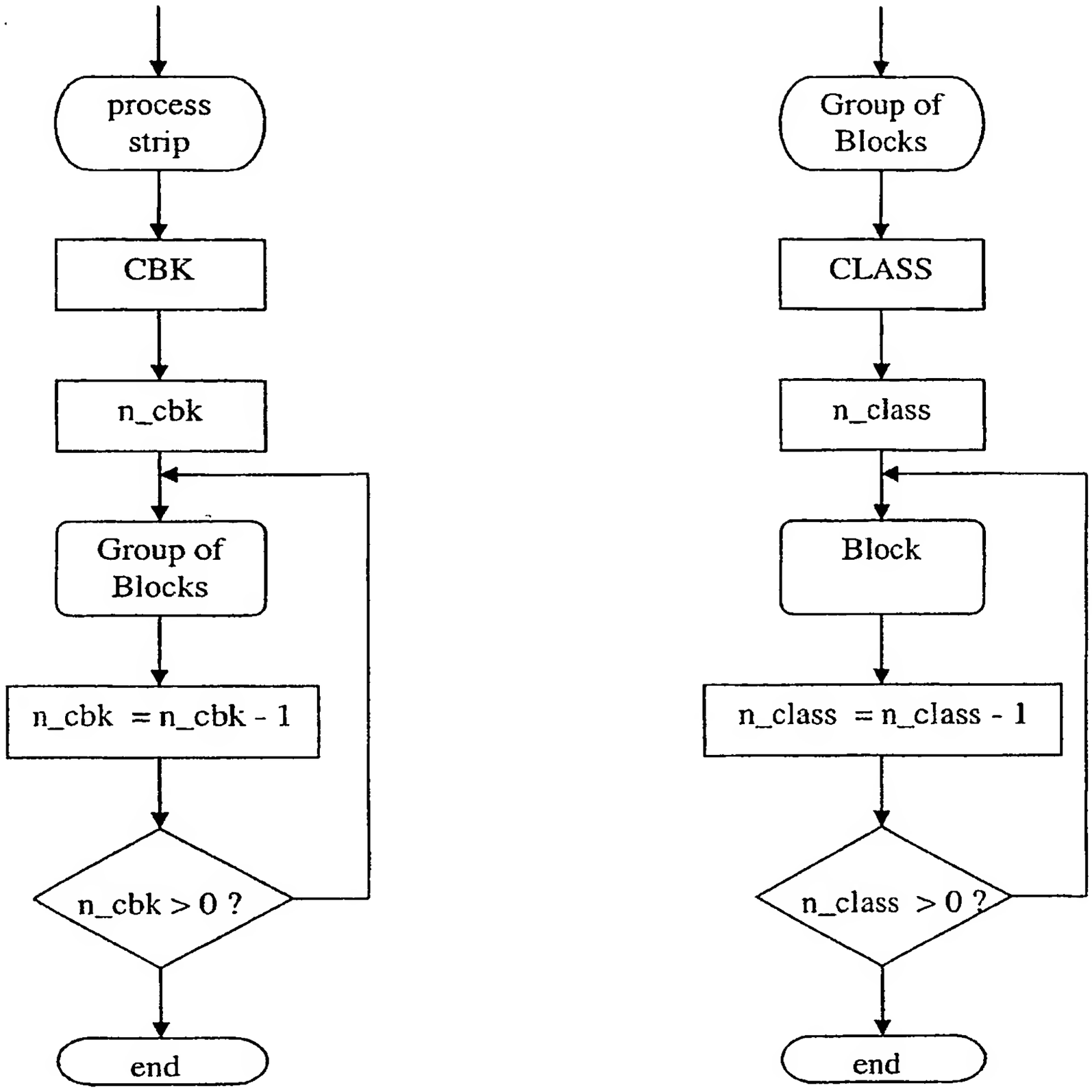


Figure 7b procedure for parsing a strip()

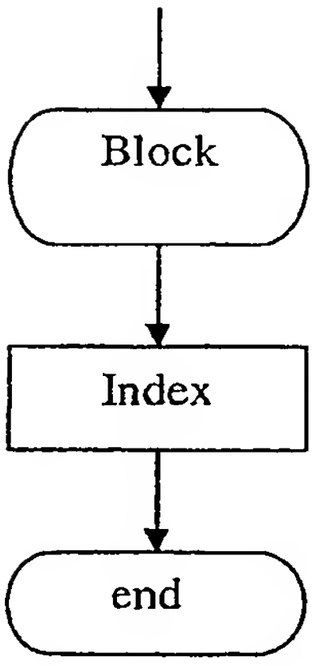
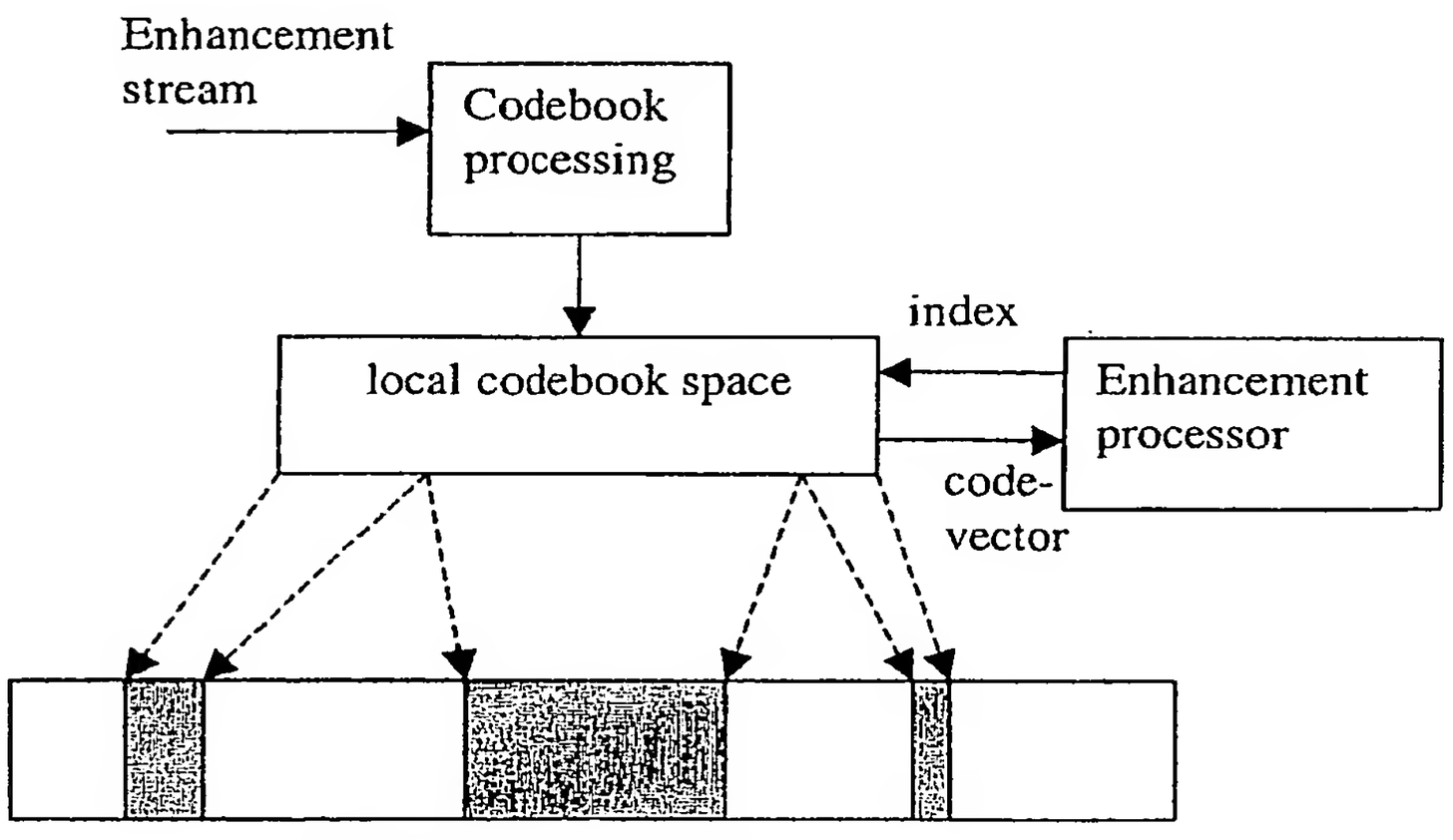


Figure 7c block



global codebook space

Figure 7d

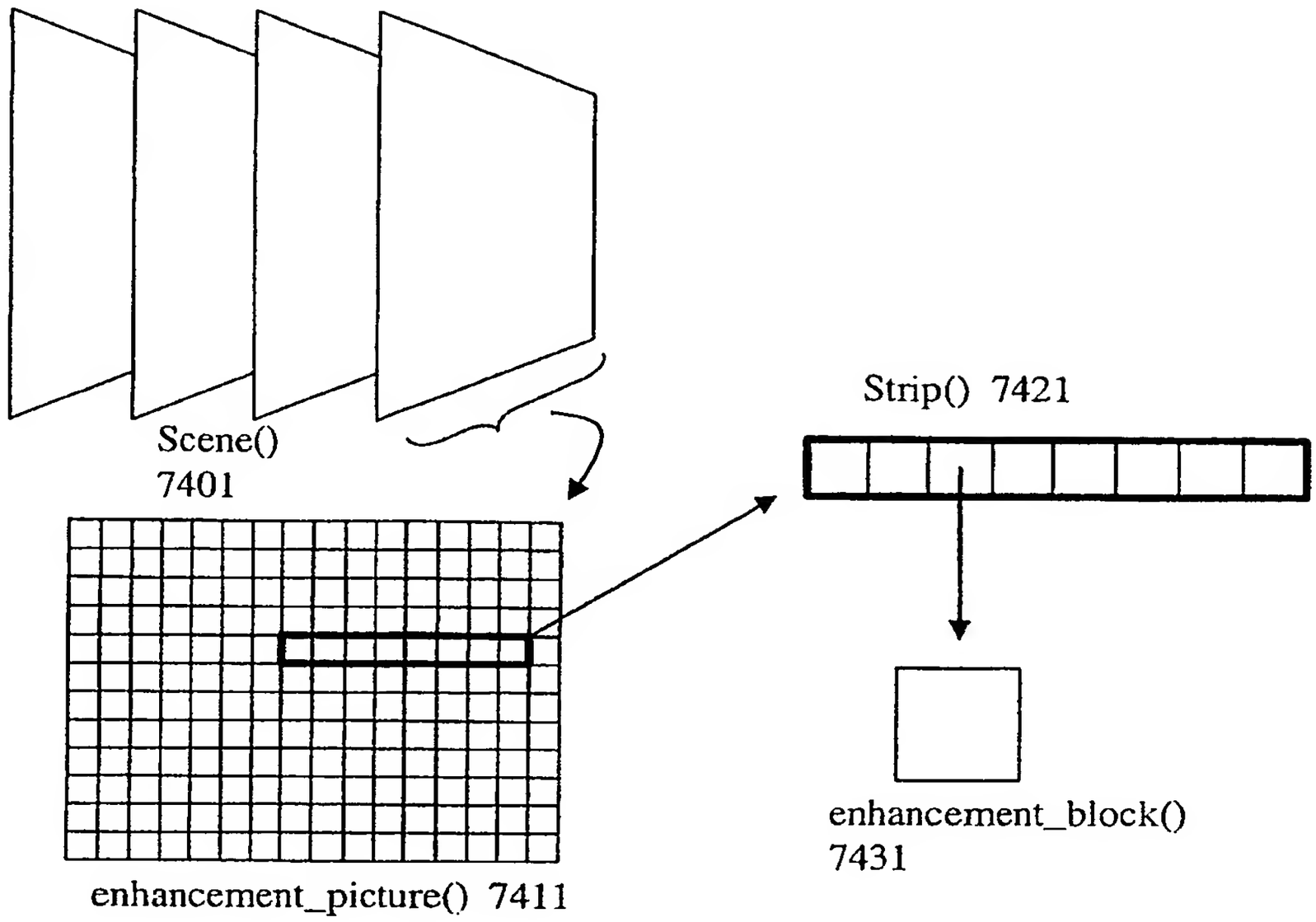


Figure 7e – set of pictures, block delineation within a picture

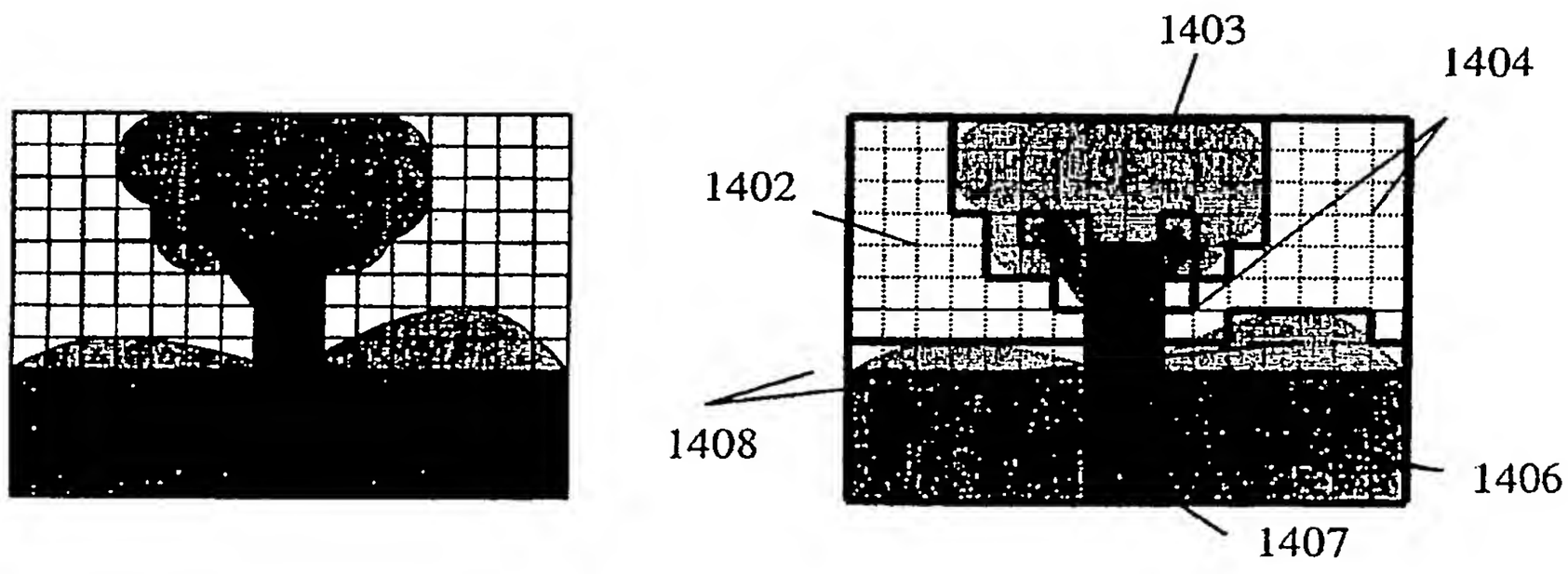


Figure 7f -- codebook selection by content region

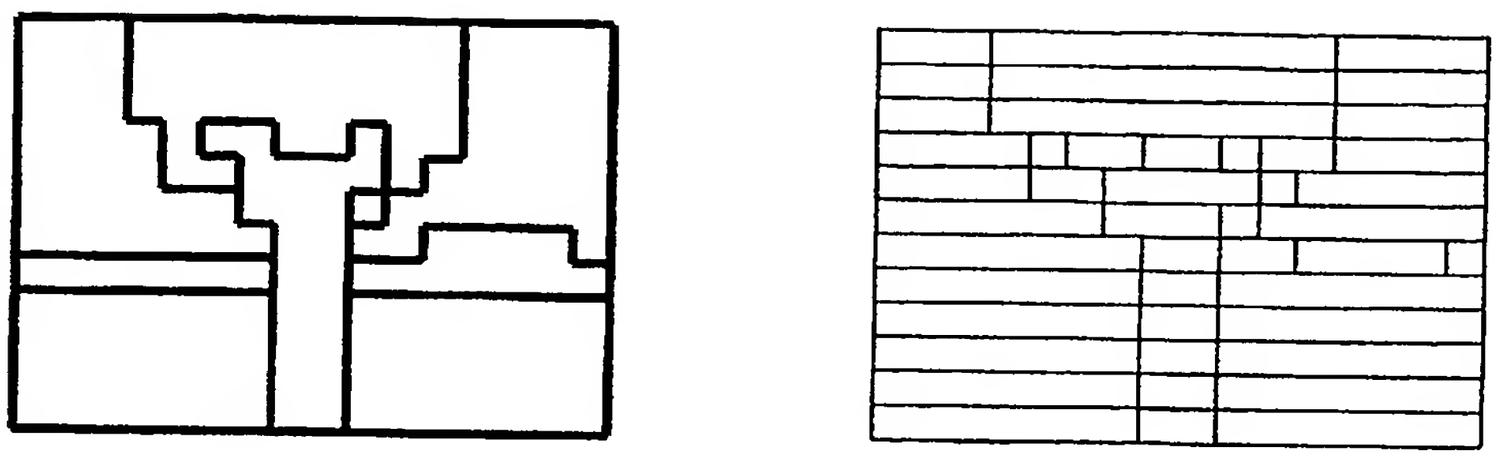


Figure 7g – strip() delineation according to region

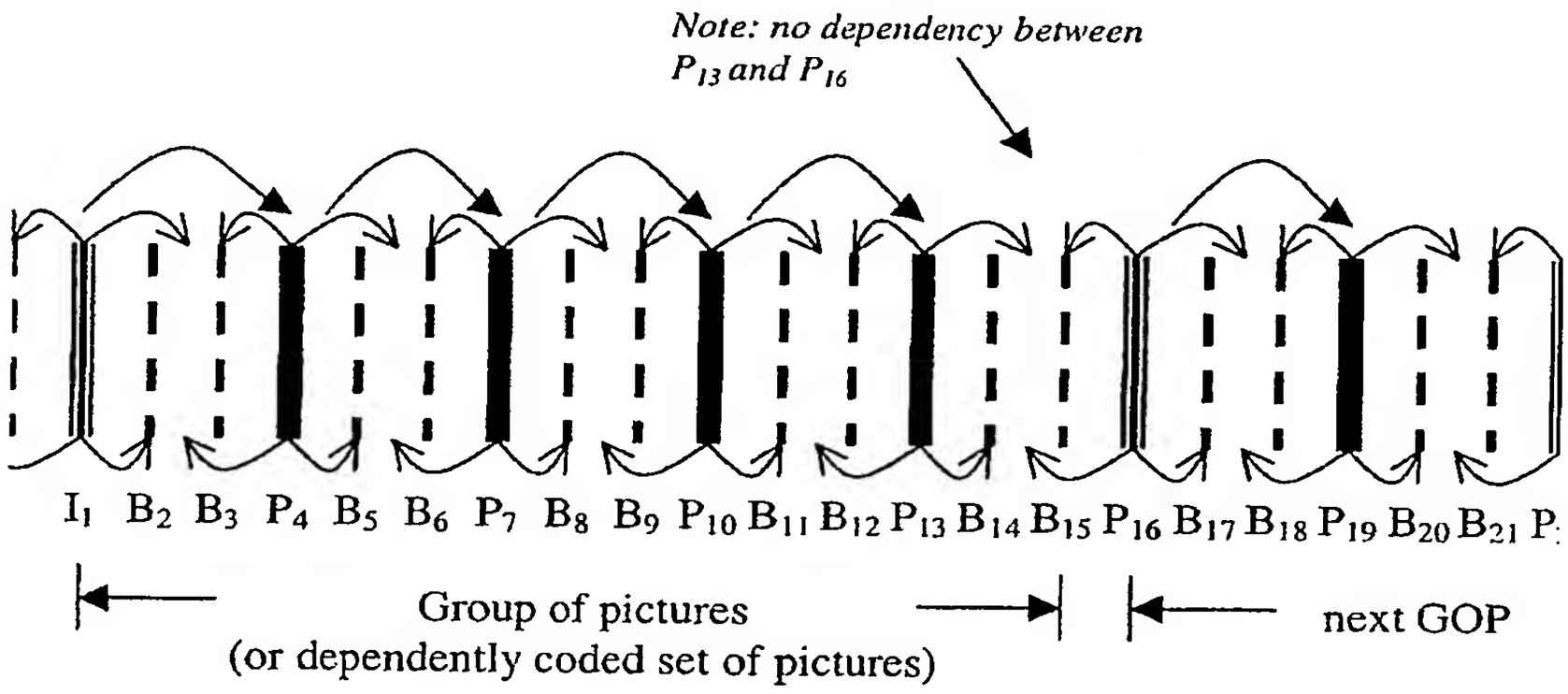
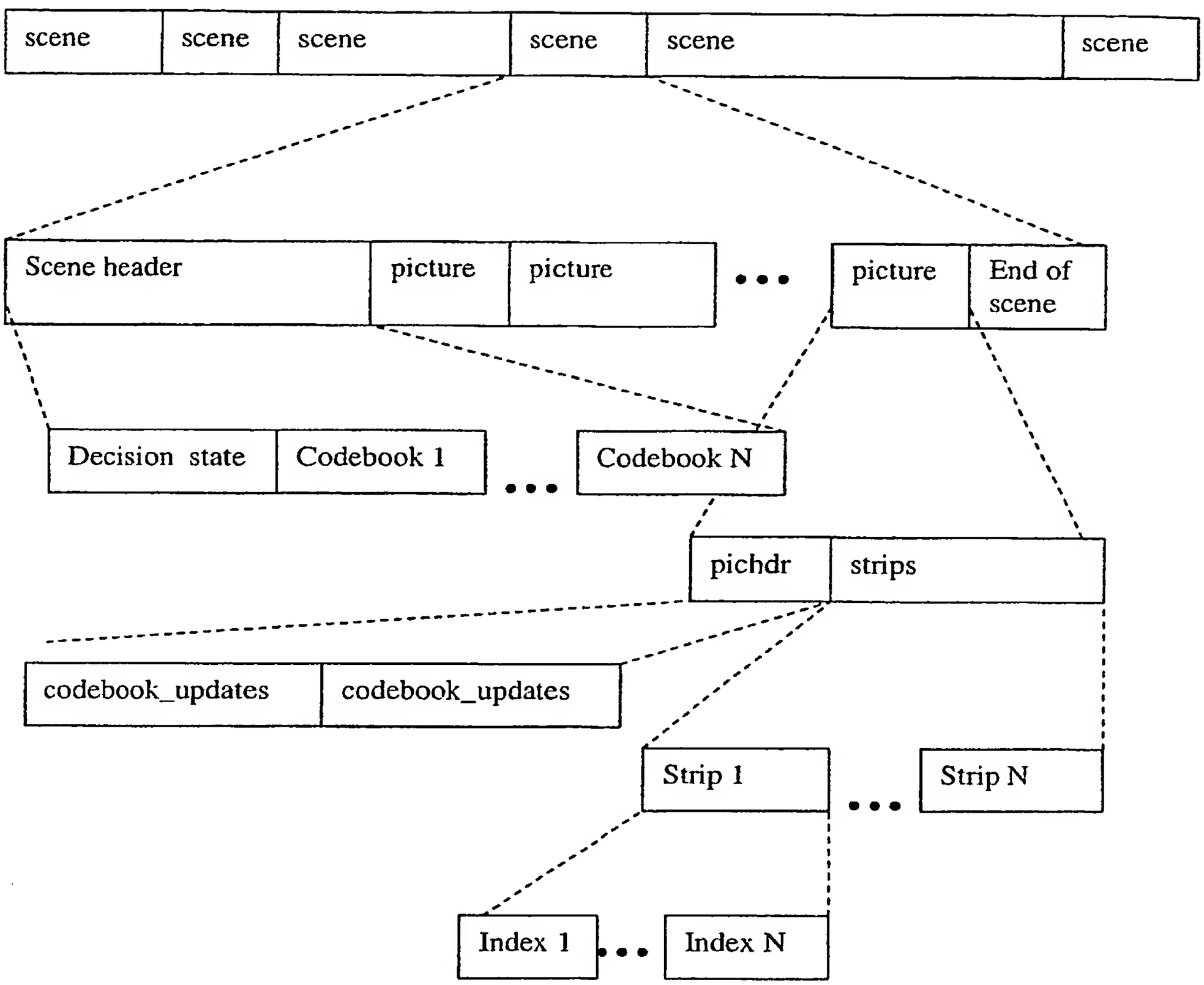


Figure 7h-- Group of dependently coded pictures

Legend:

I : Intra picture
P: Predicted picture
B: Bi-directionally predicted picture



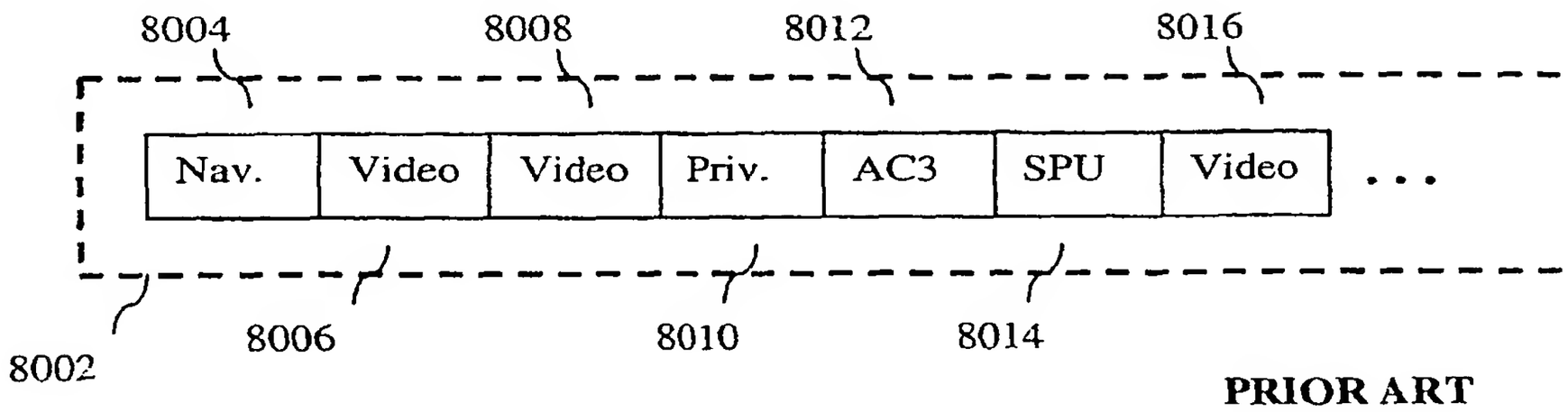


Figure 8a

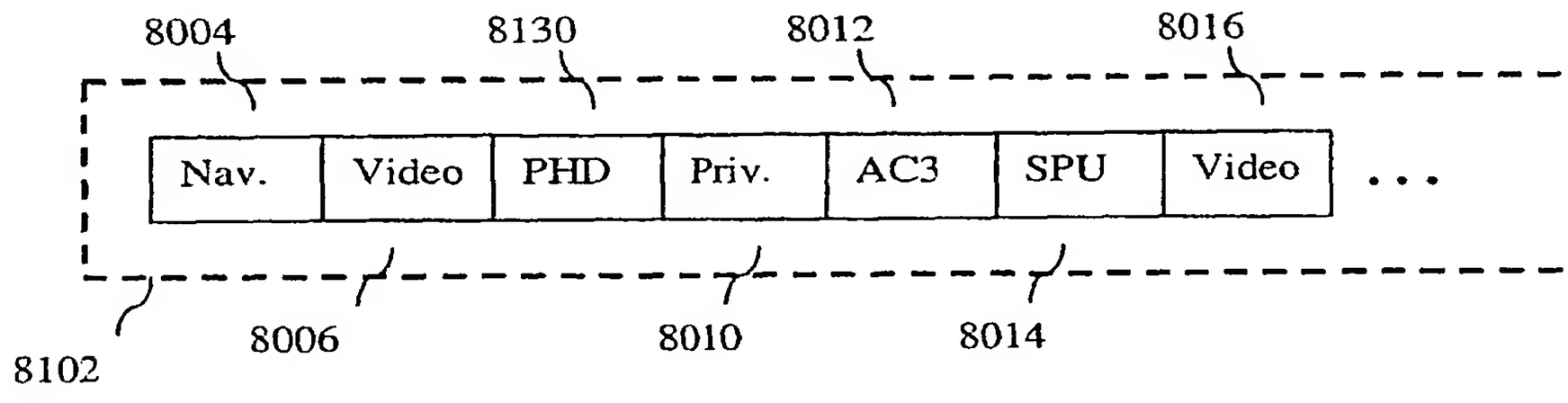


Figure 8b

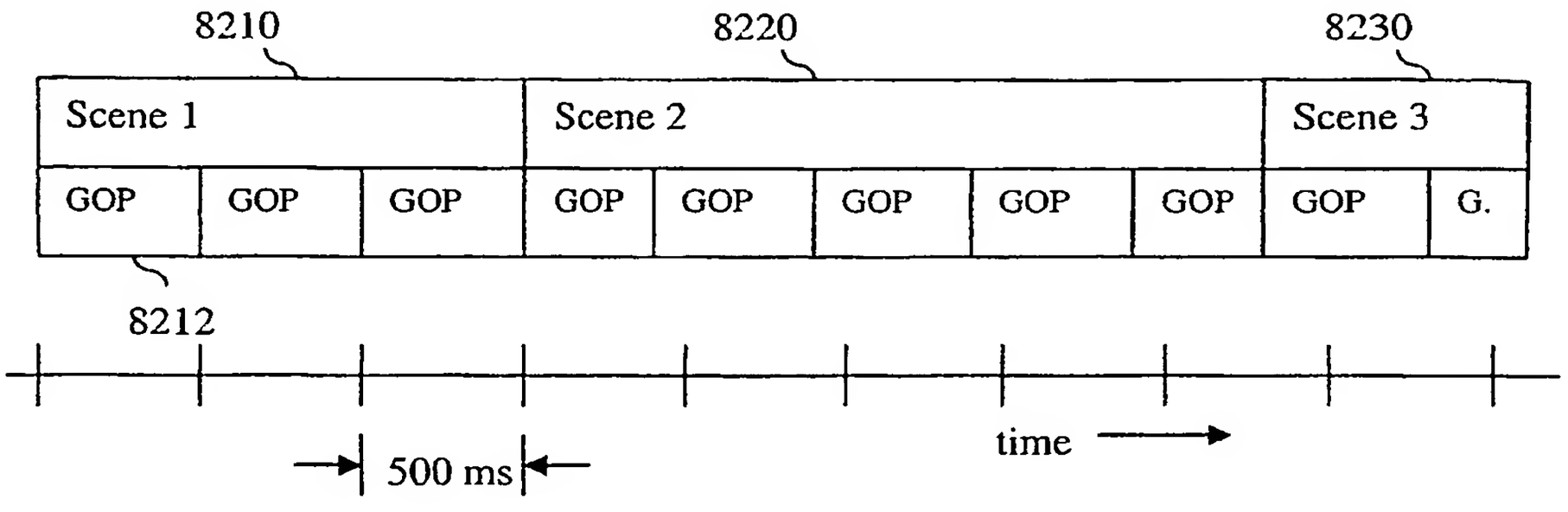


Figure 8c *Prior art: scenes and GOPs*

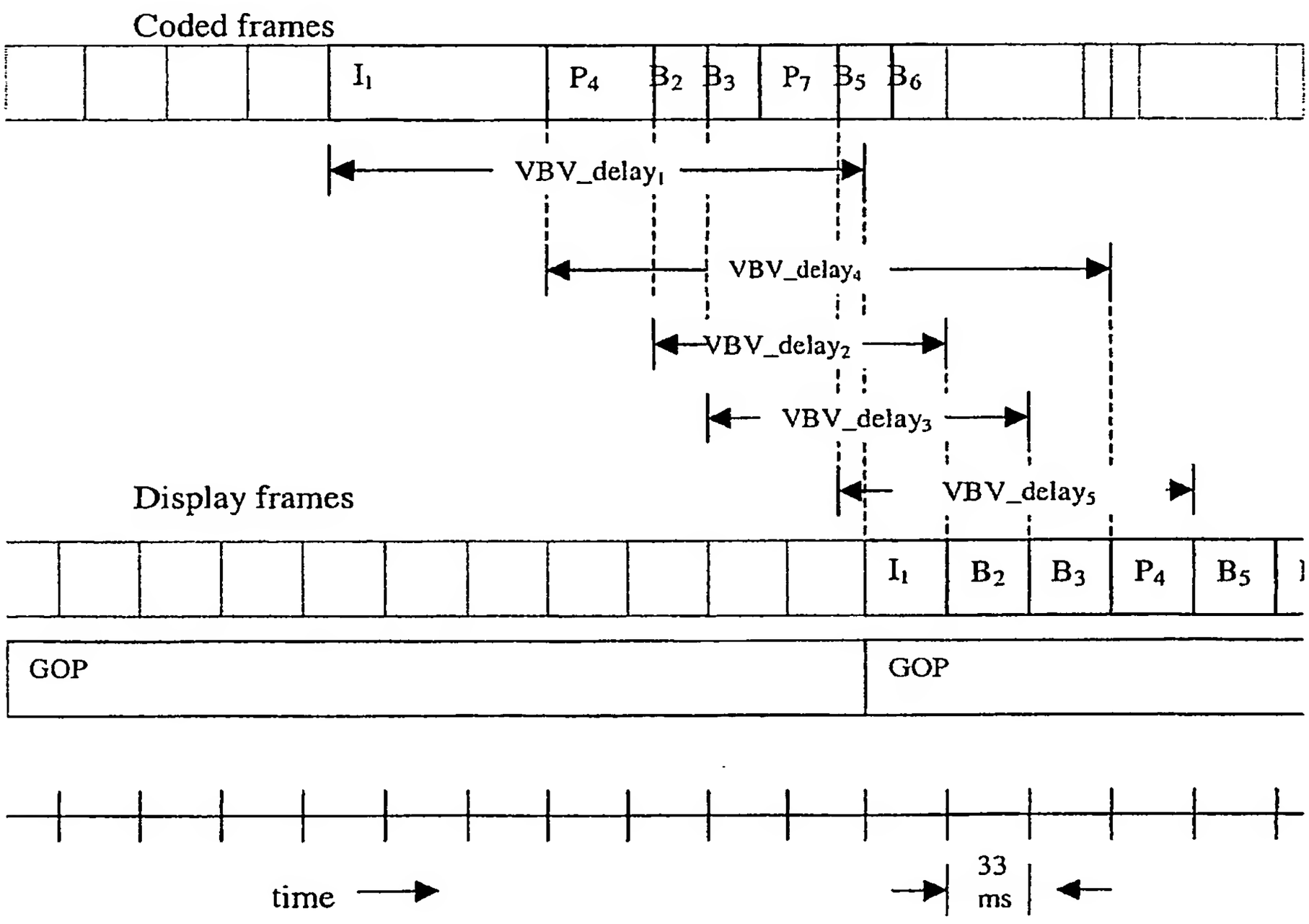


Figure 8d *Prior art relationship between coded frame and display frame times*

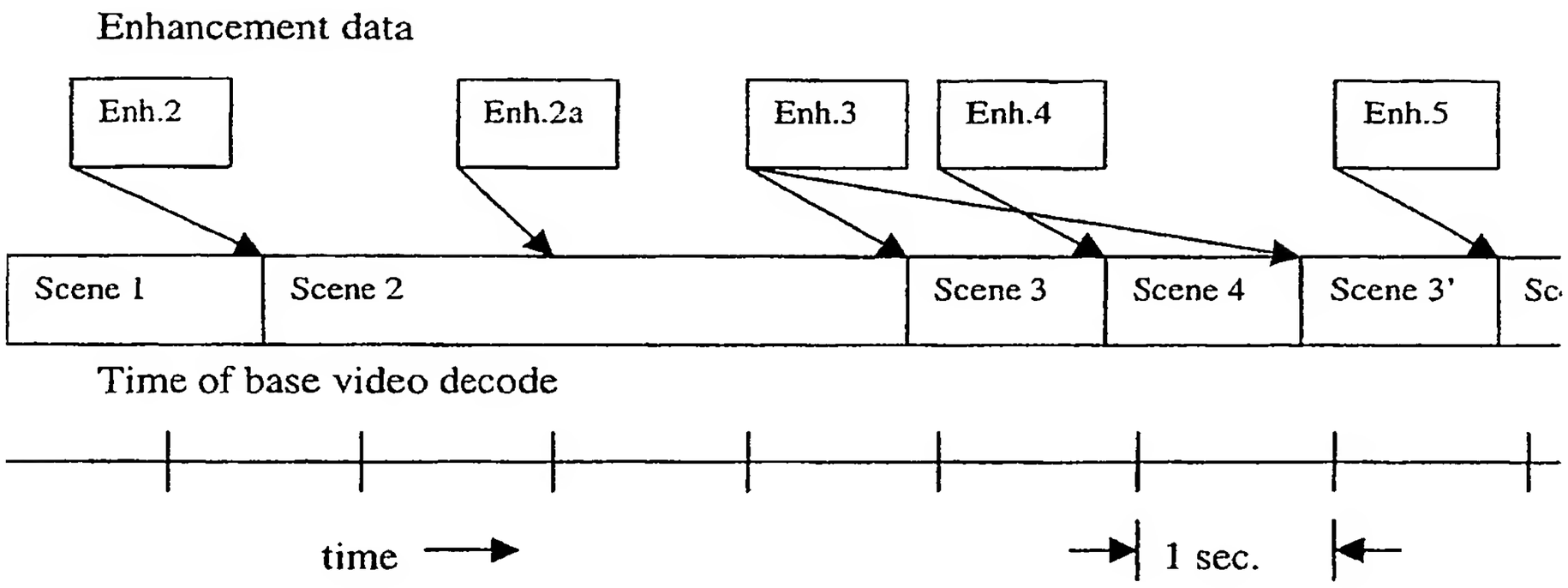


Figure 8e PHD codebook application periods

Legend:
Enh2: codebook for scene 2
Enh2a: second codebook for scene 2 for random access/resilience purposes due to long scene.
Enh3: codebook applied to Scene 3 and Scene 3'. Scene 3' is short enough and close enough in content and time to Scene 3 that only one codebook need by applied.
Enh4: codebook for scene 4
Enh5: codebook for scene 5 (not shown)

Enh1 codebook for Scene 1 is now shown and would be to the left of the diagram.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2003/102868 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: H04N 7/12

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US2003/016877

(22) International Filing Date: 28 May 2003 (28.05.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/384,047 29 May 2002 (29.05.2002) US

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(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

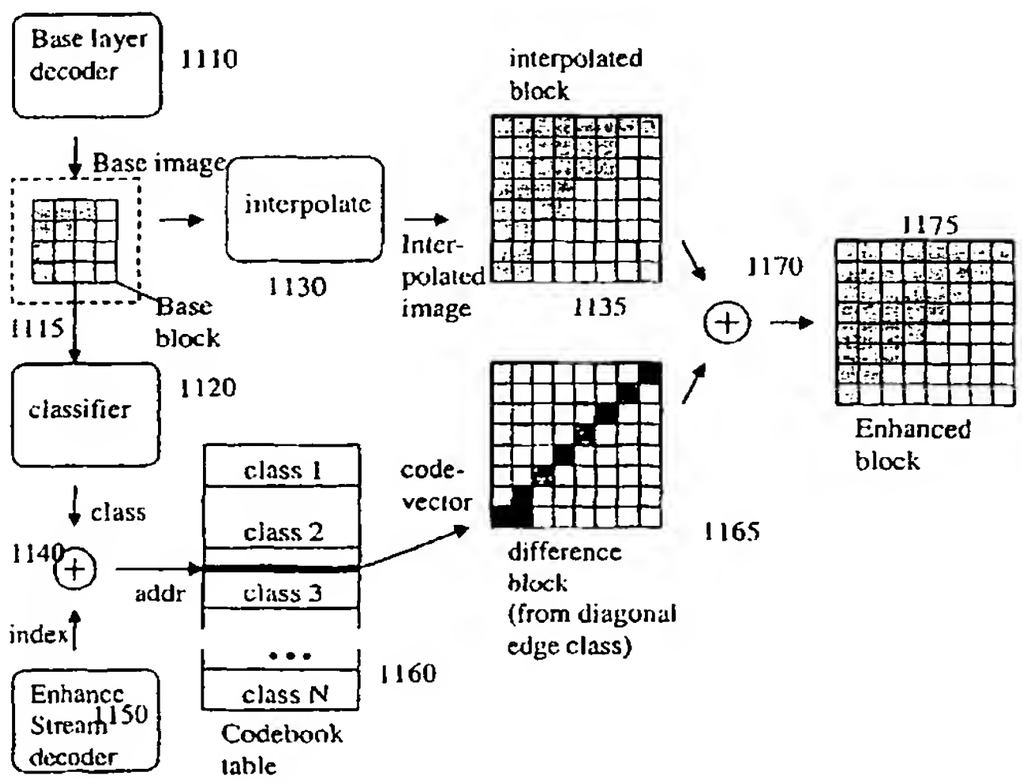
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
8 April 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: CLASSIFYING IMAGE AREAS OF A VIDEO SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A method of enhancing picture quality of a video signal is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of receiving base layer images of standard definition pictures from a base layer decoder; defining image areas of the standard definition pictures; classifying image areas into image types by assigning a class number; and generating enhanced pictures based upon the standard definition pictures and the classification of the image areas. A circuit for enhancing picture quality of a video signal is also disclosed. The circuit comprising a base layer decoder (1110); a classifier (1120) coupled to the base layer decoder, the classifier generating a class number for image areas of a standard definition picture; a summing circuit (1140) coupled to the classifier; an exchange stream decoder coupled to the summing circuit, the exchange stream decoder generating an index; and a code book table coupled to the summing circuit.

WO 2003/102868 A3

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US03/16877

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H04N 7/12
US CL : 375/240.1

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 375/240.1, 240.03, 240.11; 348.397.1, 400.1, 410.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
None

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
None

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,988,863 A (DEMOS) 23 November 1999 (23.11.1999), column 12, line 20 - column 13, line 57.	1-32
X	US 6,057,884 A (CHEN et al) 02 May 2000 (02.05.2000), figures 1 and 2, table 1; column 4, line 65 - column 6, line 51.	1-32.
A	US 6,263,022 B1 (CHEN et al) 17 June 2001 (17.06.2001), figure 2.	1

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